

# **EXHIBIT B**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BSG RESOURCES (GUINEA) LIMITED, BSG  
RESOURCES (GUINEA) SARL, and BSG  
RESOURCES LIMITED,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GEORGE SOROS, OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS, OPEN SOCIETY  
INSTITUTE, FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE  
OPEN SOCIETY, OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATION, INC., ALLIANCE FOR OPEN  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC., OPEN  
SOCIETY POLICY CENTER, and OPEN  
SOCIETY FUND,

Defendants.

No. 1:17-cv-02726 (JFK) (AJP)

**REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THE  
HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE  
ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS**

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York presents its compliments to the appropriate judicial authority of the Republic of France and requests international judicial assistance to obtain evidence to be used at trial in a civil proceeding before this Court in the above-captioned case. This Court has determined that it would further the interests of justice if by the proper and usual process of your Court, you summon Frédéric Cilins to produce copies of the documents in his possession, custody, or control that are identified in paragraph 11.

The applicants for this letter are George Soros, Open Society Foundations, Open Society Institute, Foundation to Promote Open Society, Open Society Foundation, Inc., Alliance for Open Society International, Inc., Open Society Policy Center, and Open Society Fund

(collectively, “Defendants”). Joseph T. Baio of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019, USA, is counsel to Defendants and is available to answer any questions the Court may have.

This Request is made pursuant to, and in conformity with, the Hague Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters, 23 U.S.T. 2555, 847 U.N.T.S. 231 (the “Hague Evidence Convention”) to which both the Republic of France and the United States are parties; 28 U.S.C. § 1781; and Rules 4(f) and 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York is a competent Court of law and equity that properly has jurisdiction over this proceeding and has the power to compel the production of documents.

The production of documents is intended for use at trial and, in the view of this Court, the evidence sought through the present Request is directly relevant to the issues in dispute, including whether, as Defendants contend, Plaintiffs obtained their mining rights in Guinea through bribery and corruption.

This Request is made with the understanding that it will not require any person to commit any offense, or to undergo a broader form of inquiry than he or she would if the litigation were conducted in a French Court. The requesting Court is satisfied that the evidence sought to be obtained through this Letter Rogatory is relevant and necessary and cannot reasonably be obtained by other methods. Because this Court lacks authority to compel Mr. Cilins’s participation and, such participation being necessary so that justice be served in the above-captioned case, this Court respectfully requests assistance from the appropriate judicial authority of the Republic of France.

**Request for International Judicial Assistance Pursuant to the Hague Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters**

- 1. Sender**

The Honorable Andrew J. Peck  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 20D  
New York, New York 10007
- 2. Central Authority of the Requested State**

Ministère de la Justice  
Direction des Affaires Civiles et du Sceau  
Bureau du droit de l'Union, du droit international  
privé et de l'entraide civile (BDIP)  
13, Place Vendôme  
75042 Paris Cedex 01
- 3. Person to whom the executed request is to be returned**

Joseph T. Baio  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019  
USA

Copied to:

The Honorable Andrew J. Peck  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 20D  
New York, New York 10007
- 4. Specification of the date by which the requesting authority requires receipt of the response to the Letter Rogatory**

**Date**

Receipt of all documents responsive to the requests made in Schedule A attached hereto to occur by 15 November 2017.

**Reason for urgency**

Per the order of this Court, the parties must complete all document production by 1 December 2017 in anticipation of a trial on a date to be determined at which such factual evidence will be used.

**IN CONFORMITY WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE HAGUE EVIDENCE CONVENTION,  
THE UNDERSIGNED APPLICANT HAS THE HONOUR TO SUBMIT THE  
FOLLOWING REQUEST:**

- 5. a. Requesting judicial authority**
- The Honorable Andrew J. Peck  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 20D  
New York, New York 10007
- 5. b. To the competent Authority**
- The Republic of France
- 5. c. Name of the case and any identifying number**
- BSGR Resources (Guinea) Limited et al. v.  
George Soros et al., Case No. 1:17-cv-02726  
(JFK) (AJP)
- 6. Names and addresses of the parties and their representatives (including representatives in the requested State)**
- a. Plaintiffs**
- BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited**  
West Wing, Frances House,  
Sir William Place, St. Peter Port, Guernsey
- BSG Resources (Guinea) Sàrl**  
Immeuble Bleu, 5ème étage Résidence 2000,  
Moussoudougou-C/Matam, Conakry,  
Republic of Guinea, Post Box 6389
- BSG Resources Limited**  
West Wing, Frances House,  
Sir William Place, St. Peter Port, Guernsey
- Representatives**
- Louis M. Solomon  
Michael Lazaroff  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10166  
Telephone: (212) 801-9200  
Facsimile: (212) 805-5529
- b. Defendants**
- George Soros**  
250 West 55th St., Floor 27  
New York, New York 10019

**Open Society Foundations**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Open Society Institute**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Foundation to Promote Open Society**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Open Society Foundation, Inc.**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Alliance for Open Society International,  
Inc.**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Open Society Policy Center**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Open Society Fund**  
224 West 57th St.  
New York, New York 10019

**Representatives**

Joseph T. Baio  
Benjamin P. McCallen  
James Fitzmaurice  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10019  
Telephone: (212) 728-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 728-9657

Elizabeth J. Bower  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
1875 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone: (202) 303-1000  
Facsimile: (202) 303-2000

**c. Other Parties**

Not Applicable

**Representatives**

Not Applicable

**7. a. Nature of the Proceedings**

This action, captioned BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited et al. v. George Soros et al., Case No. 1:17-cv-02726 (JFK) (AJP), is a civil litigation brought in the Southern District of New York (the “Case”).

**7. b. Summary of Complaint**

7.1 On June 30, 2017, Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint in this Court (the “Amended Complaint”) against the Defendants. The Amended Complaint alleges, among other things, that Defendants caused the termination of Plaintiffs’ iron ore mining rights in the Republic of Guinea (“Guinea”) on the basis of allegedly false allegations that Plaintiffs engaged in bribery and corruption to procure those rights. (*See, e.g., id.* at ¶¶ 84, 181-84.) Plaintiffs have asserted claims against all of the Defendants for tortious interference with contract, conspiracy to commit tortious interference with contract, and commercial defamation, as well as claims for fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, and prima facie tort against Mr. Soros. (*Id.*)

7.2 In response to the Amended Complaint, on July 28, 2017, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss or, in the alternative, a motion to stay in favor of a pending arbitration between Guinea and Plaintiffs before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (the “Motion”).

7.3 Through this Application and pursuant to the Hague Evidence Convention, Defendants now seek documents to test Plaintiffs’ assertion, upon which all of Plaintiffs’ claims rely, that Plaintiffs did not obtain their mining rights in Guinea through bribery and corruption,

which allegations Plaintiffs dispute. In particular, Defendants seek discovery from Frédéric Cilins. Defendants believe that Mr. Cilins was instrumental in effecting the bribery at issue in this case, which has led to multiple criminal convictions, including the conviction of Mr. Cilins in the Southern District of New York.

7.4 Mr. Cilins has been described in the press as a representative or intermediary for BSGR in Guinea. He served as a director of Pentler Holdings, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands by Onyx Financial Advisors Limited (“Onyx”), Plaintiffs’ financial and administration services company. During at least part of the relevant period, Pentler was a BSGR shareholder with a stake in Plaintiffs’ operations in Guinea.

7.5 Defendants contend that Mr. Cilins, through Pentler, has been linked to Plaintiffs’ alleged corruption and bribery scheme in Guinea. Relevant here, among other things, the investigation into Plaintiffs conducted by the Guinean Technical Committee, a subcommittee of the National Mining Commission, that ultimately led to a determination that Plaintiffs used bribery and corruption to procure their mining rights, revealed, among other things, a Memorandum of Understanding allegedly executed on February 20, 2006, between Pentler and Mamadie Touré, the former wife of Lansana Conté, deceased President of Guinea, and various letters of commitment allegedly legalized on and/or dated July 21, 2006, July 8, 2010, and August 3, 2010 between Pentler and Madamie Touré (or Matinda & Co. Ltd.).

7.6 Defendants contend that these documents suggest that, through Mr. Cilins and Pentler, Plaintiffs did in fact use bribery and corruption to procure their mining rights in Guinea. Indeed, Mr. Cilins pled guilty, in the Southern District of New York, to obstructing a criminal investigation by attempting to destroy contracts purportedly memorializing bribes made



to Mamadie Touré. Plaintiffs dispute any and all allegations of bribery or corruption and dispute the validity of the supposed documents referenced herein.

**8. a. Evidence to be Obtained or Other Judicial Act to Be Performed**

This Court, therefore, respectfully requests, for the purpose of justice and for due determination of the matters in dispute between the parties, the proper judicial authority of the Republic of France's assistance in collecting the documents set forth in Schedule A believed to be in the possession, custody, or control of Mr. Cilins for use at trial in this Case.

**8. b. Purpose of the Evidence Sought**

The documents sought from Mr. Cilins are intended for use in the trial of this Case. For the reasons set forth above, the Court believes that the documents will serve as evidence directly relevant to the principal dispute in the Case, without which the ends of justice could not be properly met. It is therefore requested that a competent judicial authority of the Republic of France compel Mr. Cilins to produce the documents that are identified in Schedule A.

**9. Identity and Address of Any Person to Be Examined**

Not applicable.

**10. Questions to Be Put to the Persons to Be Examined or Statement of the Subject-Matter About Which They Are to Be Examined**

Not applicable.

**11. Documents or Other Property to Be Inspected**

This Request seeks documents from:

Frédéric Cilins  
238 Chemin des Pertuades  
06220 Vallauris  
France

It is requested that Mr. Cilins be required to produce the documents described in the attached Schedule A believed to be in his possession, custody, or control. Such documents are necessary for the purposes of justice and for the due determination of the matters in dispute between the parties.

**12. Any Requirement that the Evidence Be Given Under Oath or Affirmation and Any Special Form to be Used**

Not applicable.

**13. Special Methods or Procedure to Be Followed (*e.g.*, Oral or in Writing, Verbatim, Transcript or Summary, Cross-Examination, Etc.)**

Not applicable.

**14. Request for Notification of the Time and Place for the Execution of the Request and Identity and Address of Any Person to Be Notified**

Notice of the time and place where the documents will be produced shall be sent directly to the following:

WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP  
ATTN: Joseph T. Baio

787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019  
USA  
Telephone: (212) 728-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 728-8111

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP  
ATTN: Louis M. Solomon  
Michael Lazaroff

200 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10166  
Telephone: (212) 801-9200  
Facsimile: (212) 805-5529

**15. Specification of Privilege or Duty to Refuse to Give Evidence Under the Law of the State of Origin**

Under the laws of the United States, a party has a privilege to refuse to produce evidence if the evidence discloses a confidential communication between that party and an attorney for that party if the predominant purpose of the communication was to request or obtain legal advice. Parties are also permitted to withhold documents under the attorney work product doctrine if the document consists of or reflects an attorney's work product that was created during or in anticipation of litigation. United States law also recognizes a privilege against self-incrimination.

**16. The fees and costs incurred which are reimbursable under the second paragraph of Article 14 or under Article 26 of the Convention will be borne by:**

George Soros and Open Society Institute  
c/o  
WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP  
Joseph T. Baio  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019  
USA  
Telephone: (212) 728-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 728-8111

**Date of Request:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable Magistrate Judge Andrew J.  
Peck

**Requesting Authority**

**(Seal of Court)**

## **Schedule A**

### **DEFINITIONS**

1. The term “Amended Complaint” means the first amended complaint, dated June 30, 2017, or any amendments thereto, filed in this Action. For ease of reference, the Amended Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

2. The term “Agreements” (capitalized) means (i) Plaintiffs’ (defined below) prospecting permits in the Guinean regions of Beyla, Macenta, Nzérékoré, and Yomou (“Simandou South”) and the Guinean region of Kérouané (“Simandou North”), referenced in paragraph 22 of the Amended Complaint (annexed to this Schedule A); (ii) Plaintiffs’ memorandum of understanding with Guinea, referenced in paragraph 23 of the Amended Complaint; (iii) Plaintiffs’ prospecting permits in Simandou Blocks 1 and 2, referenced in paragraph 26 of the Amended Complaint; (iv) the Basic Convention Agreement, referenced in paragraph 30 of the Amended Complaint; (v) Plaintiffs’ mining concession for the Zogota deposit in Simandou South, referenced in paragraph 36 of the Amended Complaint; or (vi) any other documents evidencing Plaintiffs’ mining rights in Guinea.

3. The term “communication” means the transmittal of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries or otherwise).

4. The term “concerning” means relating to, referring to, describing, evidencing, or constituting.

5. The term “document” is defined to be synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the term “documents or electronically stored information” in Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1)(A). A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

6. The term “Guinea” means the country in West Africa with the capital city of Conakry and, for the purposes of these Requests, shall also mean the country’s government, officials, committees, commissions, affiliates, divisions, agents, members, employees, attorneys, consultants, and representatives, past, present, or future, in their individual or representative capacities.

7. The term “Matinda and Co. Limited” means any company with “Matinda” in its name, including, but not limited to, Matinda and Co. Limited, Matinda Partners and Co. Ltd., Matinda and Co. Ltd. Sàrl, and Matinda & Co. Ltd, and its principals, parents, subsidiaries, partners, and affiliates.

8. The term “Onyx” means Onyx Financial Advisors Limited and its principals, subsidiaries, partners, and affiliates, including, but not limited to Onyx Financial Advisors (UK) Limited, which was initially incorporated as BSG Management Services (London) and has provided Plaintiffs with financial management services.

9. The term “Pentler” means Pentler Holdings Ltd. and refers to the company established by Mossack Fonseca & Ass. SA for Onyx, which Onyx sold to Frédéric Cilins, Michael Noy, and Avraham Lev Ran thereafter.

10. “Person” is defined as any natural person or any legal entity, including, without limitation, any business or governmental entity or association.

11. The terms “Plaintiffs” or “BSGR” mean BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited, including Beny Steinmetz and its officers, directors, employees, partners, corporate parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates (including any existing or defunct entity by that name that is or was registered or organized under the laws of Guernsey or the British Virgin Islands, BSG Resources (Guinea) Sàrl, BSG Resources Limited, and BSGR Guinea BVI).

12. “You” or “Your” shall mean and refer to Frédéric Cilins.
13. The use of the singular form of any word includes the plural and vice versa.

## **PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

The judicial authority of the Republic of France is kindly requested to instruct Mr. Cilins to keep all documents segregated by the file in which the documents are contained in the normal course of business and to indicate the name or subject of the file in which the documents are contained, or, alternatively, to organize and label the documents to correspond with the categories in this document request.

## **DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED**

### **Document Request No. 1**

Documents sufficient to demonstrate the corporate structure of Pentler Holdings and its principals, parents, subsidiaries, partners, and affiliates, including any organizational charts.

### **Document Request No. 2**

All Documents or Communications concerning Pentler Holdings, including, but not limited to, Documents or Communications concerning the creation of Pentler Holdings, services provided by Pentler Holdings related to Guinea or BSGR, and any payments made to, by, or through Pentler Holdings, directly or indirectly, related to the Agreements or BSGR's dealings in Guinea.

### **Document Request No. 3**

Documents sufficient to demonstrate any business relationships between Pentler Holdings, on the one hand, and BSGR or Beny Steinmetz, on the other hand, during the relevant time period, including but not limited to any principal-agent relationships, parent-subsidiary relationships, relationships arising from stock ownership, or other business affiliations.

### **Document Request No. 4**

All Documents or Communications concerning any contracts or agreements, whether written or oral, entered into by You or Pentler Holdings related to the Agreements or BSGR's dealings in Guinea.

### **Document Request No. 5**

All Communications or Documents concerning Communications or meetings between You and Mamadie Touré relating to BSGR, including, but not limited to, the Agreements and BSGR's dealings in Guinea.

**Document Request No. 6**

All Documents or Communications concerning Matinda and Co. Limited.

**Document Request No. 7**

All Documents or Communications concerning Communications or meetings between You, on the one hand, and (i) Beny Steinmetz, (ii) Roy Oron, (iii) Asher Avidan, (iv) BSGR, (v) Michael Noy, (vi) Avraham Lev Ran, (vii) Dag Cramer, (viii) Onyx Financial Advisors, (ix) Lounceny Nabé, and (x) Mahmoud Thiam on the other hand.

**Document Request No. 8**

Any contract or agreement (whether written or oral) entered into or allegedly entered into between Plaintiffs or Pentler Holdings, on the one hand, and (i) Mamadie Touré or Matinda and Co. Limited, (ii) Ibrahima Sory Touré, (iii) Ibrahima Fofana Kassory, (iv) Adama Sidibe, (v) Aboubacar Bah, (vi) Ismaila Daou, (viii) Samuel Mebiame, (viii) Lounceny Nabé, and (ix) Ghasson Boutros on the other hand.

**Document Request No. 9**

All Documents or Communications concerning any contract or agreement (whether written or oral) entered into or allegedly entered into between BSGR or Pentler Holdings, on the one hand, and (i) Mamadie Touré or Matinda and Co. Limited, (ii) Ibrahima Sory Touré, (iii) Ibrahima Fofana Kassory, (iv) Adama Sidibe, (v) Aboubacar Bah, (vi) Ismaila Daou, or (viii) Samuel Mebiame, (viii) Lounceny Nabé, and (ix) Ghasson Boutros, on the other hand.

**Document Request No. 10**

All Documents or Communications concerning (i) Ibrahima Sory Touré, (ii) Ibrahima Fofana Kassory, (iii) Adama Sidibe, (iv) Aboubacar Bah, (v) Ismaila Daou, (vi) Samuel Mebiame, (vii) Lounceny Nabé, or (viii) Ghasson Boutros.

**Document Request No. 11**

All Documents or Communications concerning any payments, gifts, or bribes made, transmitted, or offered by You or BSGR, either directly or indirectly, to President Conté, Lounceny Nabé, Mahmoud Thiam, Mamadie Touré, or any other official of the Guinean government.

**Document Request No. 12**

All Documents or Communications concerning Your meeting with Beny Steinmetz the week before Your meeting with Mamadie Touré in Jacksonville that led to Your arrest, during which You “assured Steinmetz that [Mamadie] Touré would ‘never betray’ him, and would ‘never give away any documents whatsoever,’” as reported in the article written by Patrick Radden Keefe,



Buried Secrets, in The New Yorker, dated July 8, 2013 and cited in paragraph 99 of the Amended Complaint. For ease of reference, the article is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

**Document Request No. 13**

All Documents or Communications concerning the destruction of, or attempt to destroy, evidence relating to any contract or agreement (whether written or oral) entered into or allegedly entered into by BSGR, Pentler Holdings, or Onyx, on the one hand, and (i) Mamadie Touré or Matinda and Co. Limited, (ii) Ibrahima Sory Touré, (iii) Ibrahima Fofana Kassory, (iv) Adama Sidibe, (v) Aboubacar Bah, (vi) Ismaila Daou, (vii) Samuel Mebiame, (viii) Lounceny Nabé, and (ix) Ghasson Boutros on the other hand.

**Document Request No. 14**

All Documents or Communications produced to or by You in any grand jury or other investigation by the United States government relating to BSGR, including, but not limited to, investigations of You, Mahmoud Thiam, and Mamadie Touré.

**Document Request No. 15**

All Documents or Communications produced to or by You in *United States v. Cilins*, No. 1:13-cr-00315 (KMW) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

# **EXHIBIT 1**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited, BSG	)	
Resources (Guinea) Sàrl, and BSG Resources	)	Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-02726
Limited,	)	
	)	<b><u>AMENDED COMPLAINT</u></b>
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	<b><u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u></b>
-against-	)	
	)	
George Soros, Open Society Foundations,	)	
Open Society Institute, Foundation to	)	
Promote Open Society, Open Society	)	
Foundation, Inc., Alliance for Open Society	)	
International, Inc., Open Society Policy	)	
Center, and Open Society Fund,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

Plaintiffs BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited, BSG Resources (Guinea) Sàrl, and BSG Resources Limited (collectively “plaintiffs” or “BSGR”) as and for their Amended Complaint (“Amended Complaint”) against defendants George Soros (“Soros”) and Open Society Foundations, Open Society Institute, The Foundation to Promote Open Society, The Alliance for Open Society International, Inc., Open Society Policy Center, and Open Society Fund (“OSF”; with Open Society Institute, Foundation to Promote Open Society, and Alliance for Open Society International, Inc., Open Society Policy Center, and Open Society Fund, the “OSF Entities”) (collectively “defendants”), hereby allege, on personal knowledge as to themselves and for elements of fraud and on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. George Soros epitomizes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century what Lord Acton observed two centuries ago: Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely. Soros has spent

untold millions fabricating a positive public image of himself and the organizations he controls.

Yet in reality Soros is a racketeer billionaire who acts in utter disregard of the rule of law and the rights of others. This lawsuit will put an end to Soros's illegal enterprise.

2. Soros employed five types of predicate illegalities, described in paragraph 3 below, to savage plaintiffs' business and destroy their reputation in two ways:

- First, Soros, himself and through his minions, used his enormous financial clout and influence through his network of organizations to delay, damage, and destroy an investment worth at least \$5 billion that plaintiffs lawfully held to mine some of the world's most valuable deposits of iron ore located in the Simandou mountain range in the African nation of Guinea. Through fraud, illegality, defamation, bribery, and criminal misconduct, Soros interfered with and induced the breach of plaintiffs' iron ore concession and related agreements, denominated a "Basic Convention" Agreement (together with related agreements, permits, and concessions, the "Convention"). The Convention was negotiated, finalized, and ratified over the course of many years by and with three independent governments of Guinea. Before the 2014 breach of the Convention induced by Soros, plaintiffs had invested close to \$1 billion in the socially constructive project, which would have brought jobs and wealth to Guinea, one of the world's poorest countries, as well as a nearly \$1 billion consumer rail system. Soros's mendacious and illegal conduct destroyed plaintiffs' Guinea investment. Nothing has been done to develop the resource. Guinean workers, consumers, and population are the losers.
- Second, having delayed, damaged, and destroyed plaintiffs' investment in Guinea, Soros and his coconspirators trained Soros's unbridled animus towards plaintiffs

(and an adviser to plaintiffs whose name is associated with these companies, Israeli Beny Steinmetz), to damage plaintiffs' reputation worldwide, destroying other of plaintiffs' business opportunities and those of its affiliates in the process. Plaintiffs' damage from these other losses similarly runs into the billions.

3. Soros and his controlled entities (summarized in Exhibit A hereto) used five categories of predicate illegality to devastate plaintiffs' business and reputation, each set forth in detail in this Amended Complaint:

- **Soros's Actual and Threatened Extortion of Plaintiffs and Others.** Soros and his controlled entities sought to extort billions of dollars from plaintiffs and others wanting to do business in Guinea. Plaintiffs refused Soros's illegal inducements. In punishment for plaintiffs' refusal to be shaken down, Soros ratcheted up the illegal conduct against them.
- **Soros Grossly Manipulated Otherwise Valid and Lawful Processes.** Soros and his controlled entities puppeteered the government of Guinea, misled other elected officials and governmental entities including President Obama (para. 168 below) as well as the OECD (para. 171 below), misused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), distorted and violated the law, tampered with witnesses, manipulated the press – anything and everything he could control to attack plaintiffs and falsely accuse them of corruption in securing the Convention. Soros's scheme included his plan to “shake up the mining license regime” and “rework[]” all existing mining contracts in Guinea. Masquerading as a legitimate public initiative, thereby defrauding various Guinean officials as well, Soros's shake up and rework constituted brutish and insolent interference with plaintiffs'

valid contract rights. Soros's shake up and rework plan, supposedly directed at the industry as a whole, was in reality a witch hunt directed solely at plaintiffs. Soros trumped up new and onerous contract terms as well as new and onerous extra-contractual obligations – all with the purpose and effect of killing plaintiffs' contracts and expropriating their value.

- **Soros Fabricated, Uttered, and Repeated Savagely False Accusations About Plaintiffs.** Soros and his controlled entities are grandmasters of **The Big Lie** – taking false or unsubstantiated allegations of wrongdoing and circulating, recirculating, and repeating them until they go viral and pass for something substantiated. The illegal Soros enterprise was pressed into overtime to attack and damage plaintiffs. Soros funded a private investigator, one Fox, whose fabrication talents were exposed and condemned by a neutral arbitral tribunal in 2016. Yet despite Fox's total incredibility, Soros-funded law firm DLA Piper – a different firm hired to review the same issues found nothing illegal – further embellished Fox's lies, knowingly and intentionally repeating them to a Soros-funded panel in Guinea, which repeated and further embellished the lies in a report, which a Soros-induced government administrative body was then duped (or its members conspired with Soros) to repeat and rely on to terminate the Convention. Defendants began with groundless asseverations and then piled on layer upon layer of additional falsity and distortion. What resulted, an outrageous display of Fake News worsening the reputational harm by the equivalent of the children's game of Telephone, allowed the false information to gain both traction

and momentum from Soros-funded or fed press publishing leaked snippets of the falsehoods.

- **Soros Sealed His Corrupt Scheme by Bribing Guineans, Including Government Officials.** Not satisfied that the “rework” plan would be effective against BSGR’s legitimately procured Basic Convention and related mining contracts, the validity of which was confirmed by many, including reputable law firms and numerous Guinean officials, Soros, himself and through his own sons, paid intermediaries to transmit hundreds of tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to witnesses as well as Guinean government officials in charge of the review of BSGR’s contracts to make sure that the scheme resulted in the only acceptable outcome for Soros: the delay or destruction of plaintiffs’ investment. See paras. 152, 161- 163 below.

- **Soros Spread His Destruction of Plaintiffs’ Reputation and Business Still Further.** Soros’s hatred of plaintiffs did not stop in Guinea. Having killed plaintiffs’ investment in Guinea, Soros stalked plaintiffs around the world. The illegal Soros enterprise, having fabricated and spread lies, infiltrated other venues and governments, including in the United States, Switzerland, and Israel. Soros’s continued illegality led to further harm to plaintiffs’ reputation, and plaintiffs’ loss of other profitable business opportunities worth at least as much in the aggregate as the Guinea investment.

4. Plaintiffs’ losses at the hand of Soros measure at least \$10 billion. It is time for Soros to pay for that damage. It is also time to dismember the illegal Soros enterprise.

### **THE PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited (“BSGR Guernsey”) is registered under the laws of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, registration number 50001. Its principal place of business is the West Wing, Frances House, Sir William Place, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. Between April 2010 and March 13, 2015, BSGR Guernsey was named VBG-Vale BSGR (Guinea) Guernsey and BSGR Guinea was named VBG-Vale BSGR Sàrl. References to BSGR Guernsey and BSGR in this Amended Complaint, including as part of “plaintiffs” as defined herein, include the period between April 2010 and March 13, 2015 and refer to the joint venture during that period. BSGR Guernsey is wholly owned by plaintiff BSG Resources Limited.

6. Plaintiff BSG Resources (Guinea) Sàrl (“BSGR Guinea”) is registered under the laws of the Republic of Guinea with registered offices at Immeuble Bleu, 5ème étage Résidence 2000, Moussoudougou-C/Matam, Conakry, Republic of Guinea, Post Box 6389. BSGR Guinea is a wholly owned subsidiary of BSGR Guernsey.

7. Plaintiff BSG Resources Limited (“BSGRL”) is a company registered under the laws of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, registration number 46565. Its principal office is in West Wing, Frances House, Sir William Place, St Peter Port, Guernsey. BSGRL was incorporated in 2003 as a limited company in Jersey and migrated in March 2007 to Guernsey.

8. Defendant George Soros is a financier who resides and is domiciled in the State of New York. Soros is a Hungarian-American businessman and multi-billionaire, among the world’s wealthiest individuals. He serves as chairman of the Soros Fund Management LLC (a for-profit hedge fund), and related for-profit entities, as well as for OSF, all of which are based and do business in New York City. Soros controls a huge network of organizations and



individuals to carry out his instructions. As reported in the press, “**Soros is a convicted felon.** Soros was convicted of insider trading in France . . . .” (dailywire.com).

9. Defendant OSF is a de facto corporation that regularly does business in New York, with its principal place of business at 224 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019, with a phone number of 212-548-0600. Open Society Foundation, Inc. was a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware, founded in 2007, that filed dissolution papers on October 5, 2012. At the time it filed its dissolution papers, its principal place of business was 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019. Open Society Foundation, Inc. purported to support charitable activities and programs promoting open, democratic societies globally. After the dissolution and until today, OSF has continued to operate out of 224 W. 57th Street, supporting the same goals as the Open Society Foundation, Inc. In a December 2012 Board Meeting presentation, OSF described itself as a “501c3 private operating foundation”. Soros is the founder and chairman of OSF. OSF in turn funds a number of NGOs controlled or influenced by Soros, including Global Witness, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (formerly Revenue Watch Institute), Publish What You Pay, and Human Rights Watch, whose roles in the scheme included carrying out the strategies and tactics of defendants. OSF’s budget is set annually by George Soros (INSIDE PHILANTHROPY, *Philanthropy v. Tyranny: Inside the Open Society Foundations’ Biggest Battle Yet*, 9/14/2015). OSF claims that “no other philanthropic organization employs so many people in so many places” <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/open-society-foundations-2017-budget-overview-20170202.pdf>

10. Defendant Open Society Institute is a charitable trust organized under the laws of the state of New York and an IRS private operating foundation, with its principal place of

business at 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019 with a phone number of 212-548-0600 (the same number OSF lists on its website).

11. Defendant Foundation to Promote Open Society is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware and an IRS private foundation, with its principal place of business at 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019 with a phone number of 212-548-0600 (the same number OSF lists on its website). Defendants admit that Foundation to Promote Open Society “directly or indirectly provided” funding “as described in the complaint for Guinea, Revenue Watch Institute and Global Witness” during the time period of the allegations.

12. Defendant Alliance for Open Society International, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware and an IRS 501(c)(3) public charity with its principal place of business at 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019 with a phone number of 212-548-0600 (the same number OSF lists on its website)..

13. Defendant Open Society Policy Center is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and an IRS 501(c)(4) Civic League/Social Welfare Organization with its principal place of business at 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019 with a phone number of 212-548-0600 (the same number OSF lists on its website).

14. Defendant Open Society Fund, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of New York, with its principal place of business at 224 W. 57 Street, New York, New York 10019 with a phone number of 212-548-0600 (the same number OSF lists on its website).

15. At all relevant times, Soros and OSF including the OSF Entities, their agents, and other Soros related entities identified herein acted in concert with the same purpose and goal of

carrying out defendants' schemes and harming BSGR. As such, the acts of each are, for purposes of this Amended Complaint, the acts of all.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2) because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 exclusive of interest and costs.

17. Venue is properly placed in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2). A substantial part of the events giving rise to BSGR's claims occurred in this district, and Soros and the OSF Entities reside and do business in this district.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **I. Background**

##### **A. Plaintiffs' Mining Background**

18. BSGR is an international, diversified mining group that, at all relevant times, employed several thousand people in many different countries. Over the past fifteen years, BSGR has invested hundreds of millions of dollars developing and successfully operating mines and related businesses worldwide. By and through its in-house technical and financial expertise, BSGR had or has created value for its international stakeholders in numerous countries, including the Balkans and former Soviet Union, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Guinea.

19. Through this expertise, BSGR has grown rapidly into one of the largest private investors in Africa. Prior to Soros's wrongdoing in Guinea, BSGR had completed expansion, exploitation, prospecting, and development projects in the areas of metals and mining, oil, gas, and power. Its track record of operating and executing successful projects in these fields was

driven by, among other things, strong engineering capabilities derived from its affiliates, global companies specializing in processing solutions and engineering, procurement, and construction contracting for the mining, minerals and metals, oil and gas, and chemical industries.

**B. Prospecting in the Simandou Region of Guinea**

20. In 2005 BSGR (through its subsidiary BSGR Guinea BVI) submitted an application for prospecting permits over available areas in the north and south regions of Simandou. If awarded, the prospecting permits would confer on BSGR the exclusive right to conduct exploratory work in both regions, in an effort to locate and unearth iron ore deposits.

21. BSGR was not the only mining company that submitted an application seeking prospecting permits over those regions. Applications were also submitted by Rio Tinto, Vale, Mitsubishi Corporation, and BHP Billiton Ltd. Each company was summoned separately for meetings with representatives of the Guinean Ministry of Mines and the Guinean Agency for the Promotion and Development of Mining (the “CPDM”), an entity acting for the Ministry of Mines.

22. On February 6, 2006, the Guinean Minister of Mines granted BSGR’s application in two orders. The first granted BSGR Guinea BVI four prospecting permits, covering 2,047 square kilometers in the Guinean region of Beyla, Macenta, Nzérékoré, and Yomou (“Simandou South”). The second granted BSGR Guinea BVI three prospecting permits, covering 1,286 square kilometers in the region of Kérouané (“Simandou North”). Pursuant to those permits, BSGR was required to submit monthly activity reports and quarterly financial reports to the CPDM and to remit certain administration fees, stamp duties, and land taxes to the government of Guinea. BSGR complied with these requirements.

23. On February 20, 2006, BSGR Guinea BVI entered into a memorandum of understanding with Guinea, which set forth a framework for cooperation regarding future iron ore mining in both regions. Under that memorandum, and as required by the Mining Code then in existence, before a concession could be granted, BSGR agreed to conduct a feasibility study to determine the commercial viability of mining iron ore in those regions, including an assessment of what infrastructure would be required to extract any iron ore. Completion of a feasibility study typically entails detailed geological, mining, hydrogeological, metallurgical, environmental, infrastructural, and financial assessments regarding the extent to which mining projects are physically possible and economically feasible.

24. BSGR began prospecting work in these regions as soon as it was possible. In November 2006, BSGR Guinea established exploration camps in Simandou North and Simandou South to begin geological mapping and prospective drilling.

25. The international mining company, Rio Tinto, had been responsible for conducting similar exploratory work in an area referred to as Simandou Blocks 1-4, where it had held mining rights since 1997. Rio Tinto failed to do any significant exploratory work in these regions, particularly with regard to Blocks 1 and 2, which were located near Simandou North. As a result of Rio Tinto's failure adequately to prospect these blocks, and on the basis that its delay in conducting exploratory work breached the Mining Code, the Guinean government required Rio Tinto to relinquish its rights in Blocks 1 and 2 altogether.

26. In 2008, the Government of Guinea decided to retrocede Blocks 1 and 2. During that process, BSGR applied for a prospecting permit for Simandou Blocks 1, 2, and 3. On December 9, 2008, that application was granted as to Simandou Blocks 1 and 2 (the "Blocks 1 and 2 Permit") by the then-Minister of Mines Louceny Nabé.

27. Guinean President Lansana Conté died two weeks later, on December 22, 2008. And although his death created some political instability – marked by military coups and a transitional government – the legitimacy of the Blocks 1 and 2 Permit was confirmed after a thorough examination by the Minister of Mines in the successor government and the Interim President, Moussa Dadis Camara.

28. BSGR Guinea began exploratory drilling in Blocks 1 and 2 in April 2009.

### **C. The Basic Convention Agreement**

29. On November 16, 2009 – after drilling for over three years and investing over \$160 million – BSGR completed and submitted to the CPDM a 450-page feasibility study of the highest international standards with over 1,000 pages of annexes regarding the viability of mining operations in Simandou South, also called Zogota. Based on BSGR’s lengthy assessment and willingness to invest capital in the region, the CPDM recommended to the Ministry of Mines that BSGR be invited to negotiate a mining and infrastructure agreement.

30. Thereafter, the parties entered into intense, arms-length negotiations, which resulted in the signing of the Basic Convention Agreement (defined above as part of, along with other relevant agreements, including the Blocks 1 and 2 Permit and Zogota Mining Concession, the “Convention”) on December 16, 2009.

31. In exchange for the right commercially to mine iron ore found in Simandou South, BSGR agreed among other things to invest billions of dollars in capital investments in Guinea. Apart from the infrastructure necessary to mine and export iron ore, BSGR agreed to invest capital that was not directly related to developing, mining, or exporting iron ore, but instead was intended to benefit the Guinean people.

32. For example, BSGR agreed to reconstruct a 600-kilometer trans-Guinean passenger railway between the Guinean cities of Conakry and Kankan, and extend the railway another 200 kilometers to the Guinean area of Kérouané as a show of good will to the Guinean people.

33. Additionally, BSGR was required to undertake costly capital improvements to certain existing infrastructure in Guinea necessary to export iron ore from Simandou South and Blocks 1 and 2. Specifically, BSGR agreed to (1) construct a heavy cargo railway between the mine in Simandou South and the village of Sanniequellie on the border with Liberia, (2) construct a second heavy cargo railway between Blocks 1 and 2 and Sanniequellie, (3) construct a third heavy cargo railway between Sanniequellie and the port of Buchanan, (4) renovate the existing cargo railway between Sanniequellie and the port of Buchanan on the Liberian coast, (5) renovate the port of Buchanan itself, and (6) construct a new deep-sea port southeast of Buchanan.

34. The Convention was a legal, valid, and binding agreement. Under the Convention, BSGR was granted the exclusive right to conduct commercial mining activities in the Simandou South region of Guinea and to export and sell on the international market all iron ore located therein. The Convention also specified the terms under which BSGR Guinea was entitled to develop within Blocks 1 and 2 if and when it was awarded a mining concession for those areas. BSGR Guinea was also required to submit a feasibility study with respect to Simandou Blocks 1 and 2 within twenty-four months after the Basic Convention was executed. The conclusions and terms of that feasibility study would facilitate the negotiations for the grant of a mining concession over Blocks 1 and 2.

35. In the Convention, the parties agreed that plaintiffs' rights and entitlements were secured even as against subsequent changes in law. The government of Guinea further warranted among other things that:

- Prior to the signature of this Agreement, the Government satisfied itself that the Company has all the qualifications necessary, as defined in the Mining Code, and that there is nothing to prevent the granting of a Concession and the signature of this Agreement.
- Signature by the Government on this Agreement and the execution of the obligations arising, are not in violation of any law, regulation, decree or order of any national or local authority or of any ruling handed down by a Guinean court.

36. On March 19, 2010, Guinea's new president Sékouba Konaté ratified the Convention by Presidential Decree and granted to BSGR Guinea a mining concession for the Zogota deposit ("Zogota Mining Concession") – an area covering 1,024 square kilometers of Simandou South.

#### **D. BSGR's Joint Venture With Vale**

37. In April 2010, BSGR entered into a joint venture agreement with Vale related to the development and operation of BSGR's mining rights in Simandou and particularly to help BSGR with the massive investment that was necessary to enter into the Convention.

38. Pursuant to the agreement with Vale, BSGR sold 51% of BSGR Guernsey to Vale for \$2.5 billion, with \$500 million paid up-front and the remainder to be paid by Vale according to milestones. Vale agreed to commit capital expenditures in Guinea of around \$10 billion. It was highly valuable for the joint-venture to receive such a capital commitment since external financing was complicated and difficult to obtain given the economic and political risks associated with the project and the region at the time.



39. BSGR kept the government of Guinea fully informed during the negotiations with Vale. The government of Guinea confirmed that it had no objection to the joint venture; indeed, in a March 19, 2010 letter, the Minister of Mines welcomed the proposed joint venture. By letter dated April 16, 2010, BSGR formally notified Guinea of the contemplated joint venture, explaining in detail its structure and purpose. This was followed by a meeting with the senior ministers of the Government of Guinea including the Prime Minister and the President and representatives of BSGR and Vale. The letter also explained that, even though no formal governmental approval was required under the terms of the Mining Code or the Convention, both BSGR and Vale believed such approval would be prudent. That same day, Guinea counter-signed BSGR's letter, again confirming that it had no objection to the joint venture.

40. Two months later, BSGR Guinea formally changed its name to VBG-Vale BSGR Guinea ("VBG" or "BSGR").

41. Work in Zogota progressed quickly thereafter. Substantial progress was made on certain projects; camps and roads were constructed; and a project to link the sites of Zogota and Blocks 1 and 2 was undertaken.

42. In all, prior to Soros's interference inducing the termination of the Convention in April 2014, as described in greater detail below, the joint venture spent in excess of \$800 million related to this project (an amount equal to more than 15% of Guinea's 2010 gross domestic product) and committed to spending an additional \$10 billion on the project and on Guinean infrastructure (an amount which is more than double Guinea's gross domestic product over the preceding three years). BSGR has not been repaid or received any compensation for this investment.

43. In March 2015, BSGR, having lost the value and benefits of the Vale joint venture because of defendants' misconduct, purchased Vale's portion of VBG along with all rights and interests that Vale had in the joint venture.

#### **E. The 2010 Presidential Election**

44. There were elections for a new president of Guinea in 2010. Alpha Condé, who previously had twice failed to win the presidential election – first in 1993 and then in 1998 – announced his bid to run once again for president in the 2010 election.

45. Recent United States enforcement activities have targeted corruption in Guinea during periods before and after the 2010 election. For example, in 2016, Samuel Mebiame, an influential Gabonese national and “fixer,” was arrested by U.S. federal authorities in New York for, among other things, the payment of bribes to senior Guinean government officials involving mining rights. In a related development, the hedge fund Och-Ziff Capital Management Group LLC and its subsidiary, OZ Management LP, agreed to pay a criminal penalty of \$213 million for “corruption of a foreign public official” and almost \$200 million by way of disgorgement for its involvement in, among other matters, a criminal conspiracy in order to obtain mining business in Africa, including in Guinea.

#### **F. Defendants' Hatred of Plaintiffs**

46. Soros has a long standing antipathy toward Beny Steinmetz – dating as far back as 1998 when Soros falsely concluded that Steinmetz was responsible for a significant Soros business loss in Russia. In his personal capacity, Beny Steinmetz supports many charities, including youth and education programs both inside and outside of Israel, while almost all of the Soros-founded NGOs are aggressive in opposition to the Israeli army and its activities. To

Soros, Steinmetz's success, as well as his active, passionate promotion of Israeli life, business, and culture, are anathema.

47. Soros is also well known for his long-standing animus toward the State of Israel, and plaintiffs (as well as Steinmetz) are seen as Israeli (*see, e.g., JewishPress.com, DC Leaks Publishes George Soros' Files Showing Millions Contributed to Anti-Israel Causes*, 8/14/2016; THE ALGEMEINER, *George Soros' Israel-Hatred Spills Out into the Open*, 9/28/2016).

48. In 2012, John Waples of FTI Consulting LLP ("FTI") (whose independent contract with plaintiffs Soros also interfered with and induced the breach of – *see infra* ¶¶ 134-139) stated that "Mr. Soros had a personal obsession about BSGR and is determined to ensure that VBG's mining license is withdrawn/cancelled."

49. Soros set up OSF in 1979. The majority of OSF's activities remain covert (*see* D. Horowitz and R. Poe, "The Shadow Party" (Thomas Nelson 2007)), and Soros has used the organization to exert tremendous influence on international politics, particularly through funding organizations adverse to Israel. OSF funds many of the NGOs Soros supports, including Global Witness, Revenue Watch Institute ("RWI") (now called Natural Resource Governance Institute ("NRGI")), and Human Rights Watch ("HRW"), whose roles in the scheme included carrying out the strategies and tactics of defendants. In 2016, OSF provided RWI with \$4.5 million in donations, about 70% of its overall funding. Similarly, in 2010-2015, OSF provided significant funding to RWI. On its website, OSF explains that it "established the Revenue Watch Institute in 2006". At conception, RWI had three directors, two from OSI and one from Soros Fund Management.

50. On average, OSF provided 50% of the funding for Global Witness for the years 2014 and 2015 and significant amounts in the years between 2010 and 2014. In 2016, OSF

Entities provided approximately 40% of its funding. Soros has also provided significant annual funding to HRW since 2010. Soros and OSF – and as a result, almost all of the NGOs funded by OSF and influenced by Soros – have expressly anti-Israel positions and policies. Soros claimed in 2011 that “[o]ver thirty years I have contributed more than \$8 billion to the worldwide network of Open Society Foundations”.

([https://www.georgesoros.com/essays/my\\_philanthropy/](https://www.georgesoros.com/essays/my_philanthropy/)). OSF, in a recent budget, claims that “we continue to set [funding] priorities within the fixed resources that George Soros, our founder, has made available.”

51. Soros’s and OSF’s control of these entities includes control over board members, whose board affiliations largely overlap among OSF Entities. As just a few examples, Aryeh Neier, president of OSF from 1993 to 2012 (and still president emeritus) is an Honorary Chair of the Advisory Board of Global Witness. Karin Lissakers, a member of the Advisory Council of NRGi (RWI’s successor entity), is or was a member of the Fiscal Governance Program Advisory Board of OSF and a former adviser to Soros Fund Management. Alexander Soros (George Soros’s son) is both a board member of Global Witness and a board member of OSF. Julie McCarthy is director of the Open Society Fiscal Governance Program (FGP) and a member of the NRGi Advisory Council. Mabel van Oranje is a member of the Advisory Board of Global Witness and of the Global Board of OSF.

52. Soros and OSF also control the OSF Entities. All of the OSF Entities share the same phone number and business address. Their leadership structures are similarly overlapping. For example, all of the trustees of added defendant Open Society Institute are members of OSF’s Board of Directors. In addition, both Soros and Christopher Stone serve on the boards of 3 of the OSF Entities, while Soros’s son, Jonathan, is on the board of all but

one. Soros's daughter, Andrea, sits of the boards of 5 of the OSF Entities. The OSF Entities received most of their funding from Soros or Soros entities during the relevant period. The OSF Entities were often the conduit for the funding described in this Amended Complaint.

53. OSF describes the effectiveness of this conduit strategy in a recent budget, using RWI as a specific example: “[W]e can make a very large, long-term grant to a single organization or initiative, whether new or previously established, able to lead that change. Examples from earlier years include our founding support for ... Revenue Watch Institute, now the Natural Resource Governance Institute. . . . Examples of similarly large grants to organizations OSF did not found include our support to Human Rights Watch. . . . The other way in which we make a very large investment in a single strategy is to coordinate the separate efforts of many programs and foundations across our network in a ‘shared framework.’”

## **II. Predicate Illegality 1: Soros and OSF Interfere With Plaintiffs’ Contract Rights Through Actual and Attempted Extortion**

### **A. Soros and OSF Conspire to Influence Others to Interfere With or Breach the Convention**

54. Soros knows Guinea President Condé. Soros became involved in Guinea during the 2010 election, when Condé turned to him in March 2010 “to ask for help in meeting his electoral pledges,” as was reported in *Insiders Mining*, by AFRICA MINING INTELLIGENCE, which further says of Soros: “One of Alpha Condé’s key outside supporters before his election to the presidency, the American billionaire philanthropist George Soros, was quick to take an interest in Guinea’s energy and mining industries.” Soros has acknowledged meeting with Condé prior to the election.

55. One company stood out as a target for Soros in Guinea from the start: BSGR.

56. Defendants importuned Condé, duping him to make sure that the government of Guinea would force BSGR improperly to pay significantly more money to the government than was called for by the Convention or lose its contracts altogether. Defendants were the motivating force behind Guinea's breach of the Convention.

### **B. The Shake Down of BSGR Induced by Defendants**

57. The first stage of implementing the scheme was an attempt to force mining companies either to make huge payments to keep their rights or to force the expropriation of stakes in their assets by government controlled entities.

58. In early 2011, Asher Avidan (then-president of BSGR Guinea's parent entity), Ricardo Saad (then-CEO of VBG), and Ibrahima Touré (a BSGR employee) attended meetings with Condé. At those meetings, Condé, pursuing defendants' unlawful scheme, demanded without justification that BSGR pay \$1.25 billion to maintain its contractual mining rights.

59. BSGR refused to acquiesce to this extortionist demand and instead attempted to work with Condé in a constructive manner. To do so, on March 14, 2011, Avidan sent a letter to Condé, explaining, among other things, the work going forward in Zogota and Blocks 1 and 2, and reiterating BSGR's commitment to Guinean infrastructure projects, including up to \$1.2 billion to rehabilitate the Transguinean railway.

60. As reported by MEDIAPART, a French investigative and opinion journal, subsequent investigations into BSGR by the Guinean government were a direct result of its refusal to pay the \$1.25 billion demanded pursuant to defendants' unlawful conspiracy:

The Steinmetz Group [BSGR] is certainly in trouble since it refused to put its hand in its pocket to preserve its rights in Simandou. Rio Tinto, which still owns half (but originally owned it in its entirety), has agreed to pay an additional 700 million dollars. It was when BSGR refused, that investigations into its dealings began . . . [by] *the battalions of lawyers and private*

*investigators funded by George Soros, Alpha Condé's chief supporter* (emphasis added).

61. Soros and OSF masterminded and orchestrated the attempted extortion of BSGR. In fact, soon after the failed attempt to shake down BSGR, Soros and OSF engaged in secret negotiations with Vale seeking payment of \$500 million. This is reflected in a March 3, 2011 email between Chris Canavan (the Director of Global Policy Development at Soros Fund Management LLC, a for-profit entity founded and run by Soros), based in New York, and Daniela Chimisso (Vale's Deputy General Counsel). Attached to that email was a draft memorandum of understanding between OSF and VBG (the joint venture between BSGR and Vale), entitled "Regarding a Possible Advance Payment of Tax on Mining Substances from Projects in the Republic of Guinea." The terms of the draft agreement provided that the joint venture would be required to pay the government of Guinea \$500 million, which was falsely characterized as a supposed advance payment on taxes.

62. This document demonstrates the direct involvement from New York of Soros and OSF in attempting to extort mining companies. Further, the draft memorandum of understanding states: "The Company has been approached by the [Open Society Foundation], acting on behalf of the Republic, in order to discuss possibilities of aiding the Republic in meeting a portion of its current and anticipated revenue shortfalls".

63. The draft memorandum of understanding also shows how Soros and OSF were bent on interfering with BSGR's rights. First, any required pre-payment of taxes would itself constitute a violation of BSGR's contracts. Moreover, the MOU appears to allow for negotiation with Vale alone on behalf of the joint venture. For instance, the memorandum states in the second whereas clause that "the Parties are dedicated to ensuring *Vale's* successful long term investment in the country" (emphasis added). Furthermore, the only parties to the transmittal e-

mail are affiliated with either Vale or Soros; there is no reference to the fact that BSGR still held substantial mining rights in Simandou. This clear evidence of Soros's intent predates the purported "process" later used to justify cancelling the Convention. The conclusion was foregone before any "process" even started.

64. In an email in June 2011, Murilo Ferreira (then the CEO of Vale) explained:

Soros called me at 6:00PM. . . . I said that we are ready to continue the project and share the Brazilian experience in mining. He said that it is the **President Alpha Condé that does not recognize the agreement with the negotiator [dealer- translation error] Steinmetz**. An ongoing investigation is being held. **However, the relationship with Vale should not be affected by the result of this investigation**. In this context it is necessary to open a **parallel channel of negotiation** (emphasis added) .

65. In a later email that same day, Ferriera stated:

I don't know if I commented to you that in the first week of March Roger and I were in London with Soros, where he suggested that Vale should anticipate US\$250m to the government and as counterpart would get the agreement signed with BSGR guaranteed. One week later, after the draft agreement was ready, he changed position saying that we should pay US\$250m to have the right to sit with the government and discuss the agreement again??? (*Id.*)

66. BSGR rejected these proposed terms. Thereafter Soros, OSF, and their agents employed other illegal means to destroy BSGR's mining rights.

### III. **Predicate Illegality 2: Soros and OSF Conspire to Corrupt and Manipulate Lawful Processes to Delay, Damage, and Destroy Plaintiffs' Investment in Guinea**

#### A. **Soros and OSF Conspire to Alter the Mining Code to Interfere With Plaintiffs' Valid Convention and Harm BSGR**

67. In January 2011, shortly after his election was ratified, Condé affirmed what Soros had advocated behind the scenes, when he officially "requested" Soros's assistance to "reform" the mining industry. In response to this "request", Soros called upon his OSF funded



NGO empire and “sent a first team composed of lawyer Patrick Heller from the Revenue Watch Institute and economist **Paul Collier**”, who has worked on many studies financed by Soros (AFRICA INTELLIGENCE, *How Soros is backing new leader*, 1/19/2011), and who under the directive of Karin Lissakers of OSF and together with others, initiated the Natural Resources Charter (NRC) which later merged with RWI to form NRGI. “Other aides from Soros’ Open Society Institute” were expected soon thereafter (*id.*). Paul and other members of NRC are today on the advisory council of NRGI. Following this visit to Guinea, later in January 2011 RWI published “*Preliminary Recommendations for the mining concessions’ review process*”, for the expressed purpose of assisting Guinea in “renegotiating” better terms for the mining agreements. As Soros explained in THE NEW YORKER, he personally “enlisted” RWI.

68. In its preliminary recommendations [informally translated from French], RWI advocated for immediate review and renegotiation of existing mining contracts, on the premise that the “coincidence” between the new regime and the “higher prices of raw materials” gave the government of Guinea “the legitimacy and responsibility” to rework the contracts. RWI set out a formula for how to “maintain public support” as it implemented this review, including by explaining the review “as an initiative to create stable long-term agreements” and by “systematic use of semantics and references to the stability of investor relations”. RWI specifically recommended that the government of Guinea form “a Committee composed of a technical team and a General Committee of the members of the various ministries” and mobilize “a team of lawyers” to start the renegotiations. In furtherance of defendants’ scheme, RWI was specifically tasked in the report with reviewing BSGR’s mining rights first.

69. As George Soros himself explained in 2011, his intent was to “pull out all the stops” for his “latest engagement in Guinea” because, among other things, the Soros-funded and

controlled “Revenue Watch Institute is well situated to help the new administration . . . renegotiate the contracts that had been obtained through bribery.” (The Philanthropy of George Soros: Building Open Societies, 2011). Soros made this statement before any investigation had occurred.

70. Also prior to any investigation, in a document posted on an online news site in 2011 that claims to be a confidential document from George Soros, he outlined his plan to conscript various agents and associated entities in furtherance of his “mission”:

“To the extent we don’t have the capacity, we must acquire it. . . . I shall ask . . . Chris Canavan [of Soros Fund Management] to take charge. . . . Our initial mission will arrive in Conakry on January 2nd consisting of Abdul Tejan-Cole, a representative of OSIWA [Open Society Initiative for West Africa], and Patrick Heller from Revenue Watch. Chris Canavan will join them as soon as possible. Paul Collier will visit before January 9th. Patrick Heller should establish contact with him immediately and prepare for his visit. . . . Revenue Watch and OSIWA should maintain a more or less permanent presence for the next few months. That should be a good start. (<http://guineeactu.info/HTML/document-confidentiel-la-complicite-averee-entre-alpha-conde-bernard-kouchner-et-le-milliardaire-america-in-georges-soros.htm>).

71. As RWI recommended, in furtherance of defendants’ “mission,” defendants employed a team of at least four attorneys from the International Senior Lawyers Project (“ISLP”) paid for by one of the OSF Entities, Foundation to Promote Open Society (“FPOS”), to consult and provide hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of legal services for, among other things, the ISLP attorneys to analyze and draft “legal and regulatory frameworks” in Guinea. (FPOS Schedule O, form 990 for 2015). ISLP’s website reports that it partnered with “NGO Revenue Watch Institute,” in drafting “regulations implementing” various provisions of the Mining Code.

72. Following RWI’s recommendations, in late February and early March 2011 Soros and his agents, including various OSF representatives, met with Condé for four days, supposedly to discuss a comprehensive review of all Guinean mining licenses and contracts currently in

place. However, the true purpose of those meetings was to effectuate the scheme to strip the rights of companies – specifically plaintiffs – who refused to acquiesce to the extortionist demands masterminded by Soros and his agents. According to AFRICA INTELLIGENCE, this was “Soros’ initiative” for Guinea and included “an eventual and mandatory government acquisition of a 33% holding in all companies operating in the country” including “BSG Resources” (AFRICA INTELLIGENCE, *How Soros is backing new leader*, 1/19/2011).

73. A March 1, 2011 article stated that Guinea had enlisted the help of Soros to “review” the mining code, including “revis[ing] the country’s mining code to give the state a 33 percent stake in mining projects, from 15 percent now” and that “the country was turning to Soros because Guinea could not afford to pay international consultants” (REUTERS, *Guinea’s Condé enlists Soros aid with mining code*, 3/2/2011). Soros’s financial clout gave him power over Guinea’s processes of government, which he then thoroughly abused.

74. Condé and Soros held a joint press conference at which they announced more formally that all existing mining contracts in Guinea would be re-examined and a new Mining Code would be enacted. Thereafter, OSF and the special advisor to President Alpha Condé Mamoudou Kouyaté issued joint press releases on March 2, 2011, announcing the future enactment of a new Mining Code and the review of all mining contracts. This press release stated that:

All existing contracts will be re-examined. **Contract holders and the countries to whose jurisdictions they belong will have to comply with the principles of EITI** [the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative] and a code of conduct which will include a willingness to cooperate in criminal investigations. Guinea will retain the Revenue Watch Institute and the International Senior Lawyers Project to provide legal advice (emphasis added).

75. This initiative was said to be supported by “George Soros and his Open Society Foundations”. “George Soros, founder of the Open Society Foundations, and his team spent four days in Guinea” discussing this initiative. The Convention did not comply with the economic principles of EITI, and any attempt to force BSGR to adhere to these principles was wrongful interference. This was just one of the clear cases of Soros’s contractual interference and illegal racketeering behavior, since nothing permitted Guinea much less Soros to impose post-contractual terms on plaintiffs, especially since the Convention itself called for its terms to continue to govern even if Guinea law changed after the Convention was entered into.

76. In addition, the press release confirmed that Guinea would retain the Soros and OSF backed RWI to provide legal advice in relation to the mining review and re-writing of the Mining Code, and that OSF was to provide \$5 million in outright grants to Guinea to support the process. RWI was also part of the process of reviewing the existing contracts that included the Convention. It was through RWI and OSF’s grants that Soros was able to control the plan to remove BSGR from Guinea.

77. Thus, RWI reported in its 2012 Form 990 that in 2012, it received \$5.8 million in funding from FPOS. In turn, RWI reported that it made disbursements in 2012 for “management of mining resources in Guinea” and to promote “contracts transparency and monitoring” through engagement with “EITI’s Strategy Review Process.” In its 2013 Form 990, then-NRGI reported that NRGI in Guinea “worked hand-in-hand with the ministry of mines” and “provided strategic and substantive support to the technical committee responsible for reviewing the country’s existing mining projects” and “secure a full roster of legal support for the [mining] review.”

78. On March 3, 2011, Soros spoke at the fifth conference of EITI in Paris, France. In that speech, he said that Condé “turned to me for assistance even before he was elected . . . .”

He also repeated that Condé would be “introducing a new mining code . . . and all the mining claims are going to be re-examined and **those who want to validate those claims will have to subscribe to the principles of EITI . . .**” (emphasis added). This is yet another example of Soros’s contractual interference and illegal racketeering behavior.

79. Defendants controlled the manner and substance of their agents’ performance. In documents recently available online, OSF internally recognized that EITI “has not translated into positive change in the lives of citizens, or into improved development outcomes for the countries’ populations”. Yet Soros and OSF nonetheless utilized the vehicle of EITI to force breach of the BSGR contract because, as OSF internally admitted, defendants could 1) exercise control over Soros-funded members subscribing to EITI (including NRGi and Global Witness) through “board participation,” “softer influence of governing board members and the secretariat leadership,” by convening calls and meetings “to convince” Soros-funded entities to “forge a united position” on their activities, and by “direct advocacy and public outreach by George Soros personally”, and 2) defendants were able to control the conduct of other intermediaries, such as Fox, Horton, and DLA to carry out their scheme to breach BSGR’s contract and either extort payments or terminate the contract.

80. Internal OSF documents further explain that NRGi and Global Witness “have seats on the EITI board” and attend “strategic retreats” organized by OSF for the purpose of sustaining the “strategic coordination” that is necessary to achieve “unity” in carrying out defendants’ agenda. Other internal OSF documents similarly describe Soros’s direct involvement in “partnerships” with RWI on programs such as EITI specifically to force “contract renegotiations”. This and other internal OSF documents recognize Soros’s and OSF’s

“aggressive and targeted grant making strategies” to entities such as RWI and Global Witness as well as the formation, funding, and control of “advocacy coalitions” to achieve Soros’s agenda.

81. Soros’s statements that the mining claims would be “re-examined” implied a fair and impartial review. Because he never intended to undertake such a review, these statements – and those of his agents operating under his control – were misleading and incomplete. In fact, the results of any “review” of BSGR’s contracts had been preordained.

82. Defendants gave clear marching orders to their agents and intermediaries to carry out their scheme. For example, in response to Soros’ speech at EITI, an ISLP attorney (funded through FPOS) revealed the specific task ISLP had been assigned: to focus on the Simandou mine. This was long before any supposed investigation by the Technical Committee.

83. In an article dated March 4, 2011, the FINANCIAL TIMES reported on the press conference and confirmed Soros’s wrongdoing, the breach of the Convention, and the pretextual nature of the “investigation” that followed. The article included a quote from Condé, stating that Soros had been invited by him “to help shake up the mining license regime,” and that it was Soros “who advised” Condé about this scheme. The article also quoted a senior official from Guinea’s Ministry of Mines, who stated that “[a]ll [mining] contracts [would] be reviewed and reworked ... [t]he government will become a minority shareholder in all mining contracts.” (FINANCIAL TIMES, *Guinea to review mining licenses*, 3/4/2011).

84. Although the government represented that it would review “all mining contracts”, this was disingenuous. As RWI had been directed, Guinea’s review was principally concerned with the mining rights of BSGR. In fact, BSGR was the only entity whose mining contracts were subject to an extreme level of scrutiny. Not surprisingly, as BSGR was the only entity that refused to “pay to play,” BSGR was also the only entity to have its mining rights revoked, under

the guise of bribery allegations. No other mining company's reviews were leaked to the press. Significantly, the current Minister of Mines, Abdoulaye Magassouba, recently urged the Technical Committee (the panel purportedly in charge of the review, *see* ¶¶ 98-105) to wind up its review process – a move which “gave the impression that the panel’s unique objective had been to cancel the mining rights of VBG . . . .” AFRICA MINING INTELLIGENCE, *Review panel to close in March*, 3/1/2016).

85. In April 2011, a small working group, close to President Condé, was formed around Ahmed Kanté, the Minister-Advisor to the Presidency on mining matters. This working group circulated a “presidential draft” of a new Mining Code, which included major modifications and new strategies for the Guinean mining industry, to the Soros supported and OSF funded RWI for its review. Confirming their continued participation in defendants’ scheme, RWI submitted its comments and a new version of the draft circulated during the summer of 2011. However, this “revision” of the Mining Code was merely a pretext for improperly expropriating mining assets contracted away or for receiving large payments.

86. The complaint issued in the U.S. criminal proceedings against Mr. Mebiame (“Mebiame Complaint”) shows that the new Mining Code was part of a scheme to get money or assets from the mining companies who had existing agreements with the government of Guinea.

The complaint explains that:

40. . . . MEBIAME sent e-mail messages to Coconspirator #1, which stated that he (MEBIAME) had “exclusivity” over such opportunities in Guinea. According to MEBIAME, a senior Guinean government official (“Guinea Official # 1”), an individual whose identity is known to your deponent, requested MEBIAME’s assistance in setting up the SOMC [state owned mining company].

41. E-mail records show that in or about and between February and March 2011, Coconspirator #1 and MEBIAME, among others, were involved in re-writing the Guinean mining code.

Coconspirator #1 and MEBIAME prepared and transmitted draft correspondence, to be printed on “Republic of Guinea Conakry Letterhead” and signed by a Guinean minister, which would be used to notify existing permit holders of legal issues with their mining permits.

87. The new Mining Code was presented by Soros as a step taken by President Condé to increase transparency and legitimacy in the state mining industry. Yet the Mebiame Complaint (supported by email records seen and examined by U.S. federal agents) puts the lie to that ruse. The new Guinean Mining Code imposed financial and economic burdens on BSGR that were inconsistent with its contractual limitations on additional financial obligations. It determined what share of the mining operations would be taken by SOGIUPAMI, the state owned mining company, and provided for a “systematic review of all mining conventions,” all part of the scheme to either extort money or take mining assets from their contractual partners including and specifically BSGR.

88. Indeed it was in purported compliance with the new Mining Code that the actions of the Technical Committee (of the National Mining Committee of Guinea) against BSGR were founded (*infra* ¶¶ 98-105).

89. The final new Mining Code was heavily criticized, including by SOFRECO, the organization retained by Guinea in 2009 specifically for its experience in the reform of mining legislation. In its final report, SOFRECO expressed major reservations about the new Mining Code, including that the creation of SOGUIPAMI to manage the government’s stakes in mining projects has “potentiel de conflit” (potential for conflict), and that the 15% free carry to Guinea, with the addition that Guinea could acquire an additional participation of 35%, was not in line with mining legislation in other countries, and was counter-productive to Guinea’s interests.



That Soros and OSF controlled the drafting of the new Mining Code – through their agents RWI – shows their intent to cause the government of Guinea to breach its commitments to BSGR.

90. In fact, these changes – including the 35% described above – completely altered the royalties and tax structure applicable under the Convention. As such, the application of the new Mining Code to BSGR would be a blatant violation of the Convention, which specifically protected BSGR against post-contractual changes in Guinean law. As the Convention says: “[I]n the event of a contradiction and/or difference between Current Legislation and the provisions of this Agreement, the latter shall take precedence”.

91. In turn, “Current Legislation” is defined to mean “all the valid legislative and regulatory texts of the Republic of Guinea (laws, Regulations, Decrees, Orders, Decisions, Instructions, jurisprudence etc)”, to include not just legislation then in force but any subsequent legislation as well.

92. In addition, clause 32 of the Convention states:

The Government warrants the Company from the date of grant of the Concession and throughout its full duration the stabilization of Current Legislation and of all provisions, particularly fiscal and concerning customs and excise, stipulated in this Agreement.

Accordingly, all changes to Current legislation, particularly fiscal and/or concerning customs and excise, after the date of grant of the Concession that would as a result increase, whether directly or indirectly, the Company’s tax and/or customs and excise charges would not be applicable for it.

93. It was during this time period that Guinea had hired the established law firm of Heenan Blaikie, specifically the qualified lawyer Jean-Francois Mercadier in Paris, to investigate the issues concerning BSGR’s securing of the Convention as well as BSGR’s compliance with both law and contract. The conclusions reached by this firm, set forth in a detailed, 47-page report issued December 20, 2011, included (i) no finding or recommendation of action based on

any actual or alleged illegality by BSGR in obtaining the Convention, (ii) a smattering of trivial arguments claiming noncompliance by BSGR with technical requirements, and (iii) advice that Guinea be very cautious in even trying to revoke BSGR's rights – which, the report euphemistically said, presented “a delicate action of implementation and might lead to the involvement of the State's responsibility”. That is where matters would have lain but for defendants' illegal acts.

**B. Mining Companies Who Acquiesced to Defendants' Illegal Demands for Payment Maintained Their Rights**

94. The illegal scheme to strip BSGR of its rights stands in stark contrast to how those mining companies who acquiesced to the extortionist demands were treated. For example, a competitor, Rio Tinto entered into a “settlement” with Guinea whereby it agreed to pay Guinea \$700 million as a supposed pre-payment of taxes. In exchange, Rio Tinto was able to maintain its rights in Blocks 3 and 4, which were not made subject to review by the Technical Committee, and its rights would not be affected by any changes to the Mining Code. This agreement also was intended to better position Rio Tinto to obtain rights in Blocks 1 and 2. Soros, OSF, and their agents were directly involved in discussions with Rio Tinto that led to this agreement. It is noteworthy that Rio Tinto left the country after 20 years sitting on unexploited rights.

BLOOMBERG, reporting on an interview with President Condé, recounted that Condé said “that the only adviser to the government at the time was the George Soros backed Revenue Watch Institute. ‘I have many friends in France. They come some time to Guinea and we talk. None of them has a role, not adviser anything’” (BLOOMBERG, *Rio Executive Firing Linked to Internal CEO Feud, Says Condé*, 1/20/2017).

95. In connection with the Rio Tinto agreement, Rio Tinto paid a \$10.5 million bribe to Francois de Combret, a “fixer” for Rio Tinto under the watch and knowledge of the former

CEO, Tom Albanese, as well as the head of iron ore, Sam Walsh (to become the CEO). Rio Tinto's payment to de Combret and to people connected with the President of Guinea remained a well-kept secret until internal emails were leaked on the internet on August 29, 2016, forcing Rio Tinto to conduct both an internal investigation and an external one. These investigations led to the firing of Mr. Alan Davies (Energy and Minerals chief executive), the suspension of Sam Walsh's retirement payment, the suspension of Debra Valentine (Legal & Regulatory Affairs Group executive), and more importantly to Rio Tinto reporting itself to the UK, Australian, and U.S. anti-corruption authorities (Press Release, Rio Tinto, *Rio Tinto contacts regulatory authorities*, 11/9/2016).

96. A couple of days after the dismissal of Rio Tinto's top executives, the news agency France 24 broke the news that it had a recording of a conversation with Mr. de Combret in which he gave the following account of a conversation he had with the Guinean president: "Rio Tinto is a huge company . . . . But the president told them, 'Listen, if there's no downpayment, I'll cancel the concession.' And he would have done it." (FRANCE 24, *Audio recordings drag Guinea president into mine bribery scandal*, 12/1/2016).

97. At least one company decided to leave Guinea altogether. In July 2012, shortly after the new Mining Code's free carry provision was introduced, BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company, announced its intention to pull out of its Mount Nimba iron ore project, which was then one of the country's largest. Media reports speculated that BHP Billiton's decision to leave was motivated, at least in part, by concerns over "whether Guinea should be able to have a 15 percent free stake in projects" (REUTERS, *Analysis: Investor cheers fade as Guinea tightens grip on mining*, 9/18/2012). The Soros-driven confiscation and bullying efforts

have led not only to plaintiffs' harm but to leaving Guinea bereft of any significant development or monetization of its valuable resources.

### **C. Defendants Conspire to Increase the Pressure on BSGR**

98. Acting in accordance with defendants' strategy, set out in specifically in RWI's recommendations (written before any investigation had taken place), the government of Guinea then established a National Mining Commission ("NMC") on or about March 26, 2012. The NMC was granted the power to examine the "extension, renewal, lease and cancellation applications for mining titles on the basis of the [2011] Mining Code." As RWI had specifically instructed, NMC's responsibilities were divided among two subcommittees: a Strategic Committee and a Technical Committee.

99. The Technical Committee, "backed" by Soros, and his lawyer, Scott Horton, was designed to serve as "the operational arm of the [NMC] concerning the overall continuation, redevelopment or *withdrawal*" of mining licenses (FINANCIAL TIMES, *Guinea's first freely elected government reignites \$2.5bn mining tussle*, 11/2/2012). Despite being the supposed "operational arm" of the NMC, the Technical Committee was entirely lacking in the resources to handle this role. Indeed, Nava Touré, a former professor of engineering, was tasked with running the Technical Committee, even though he had no staff, let alone trained inspectors. As THE NEW YORKER reported, "when he [Touré] turned his focus on Simandou he had no staff of trained inspectors, so he relied on DLA Piper, the law firm, and Steven Fox, the investigator. 'It was outsourced,' Touré told me". Veracity and DLA Piper, whose roles in the scheme included carrying out the strategies and tactics of defendants, were funded by Soros or entities controlled by Soros (THE NEW YORKER, *Buried Secrets*, 7/8/2013).

100. An internal memorandum discussing the procedural calendar of the Technical Committee review reveals that, in February 2012, it was Soros's organization, RWI, which was tasked with setting the order of the contracts to be renegotiated as well as drafting the questionnaires to be answered by the mining rights' holders. The memorandum also confirms the involvement of Scott Horton and Chris Canavan (of Soros Fund Management LLC) in the Technical Committee process, specifically providing for consultations by both individuals. Later correspondence from the Technical Committee to VBG was copied to Scott Horton, further evidencing the central role of Horton in the process, as an agent to Soros and OSF.

101. Pursuant to the conspiracy to delay and destroy BSGR's investment under the Convention, Soros held a meeting at his New York City apartment in or about September 2011 to discuss the future of Guinean mining. In attendance were, among others, Soros, Canavan, Karin Lissaker, Condé, Condé's son, and executives from each of the mining companies with interests in Guinea (including Vale and Rio Tinto), with the notable exception of BSGR. Soros did not invite BSGR to attend this meeting. The representative of Vale, Pedro Rodrigues, told BSGR that Soros spoke very negatively against BSGR and Beny Steinmetz.

102. Less than a month after the meeting in New York City, and pursuant to the conspiracy, Guinea improperly challenged the validity of BSGR's joint venture with Vale, notwithstanding the government's prior approval of the transaction.

103. On November 17, 2011, BSGR received a letter from the Minister of Mines and Geology, which claimed that there were supposed issues with BSGR's mining permits, set forth a lengthy list of information requests and questioned why Vale was supposedly working in Simandou without authorization, despite the government's prior acknowledgment and consent to the Vale/BSGR joint venture.

104. On November 28, 2011 BSGR, believing the process legitimate and without the pressured and overriding interference of defendants, wrote to the Minister explaining its activities in Guinea and provided access to a data room containing a vast number of supporting documents.

105. On February 3, 2012, BSGR submitted to the Minister of Mines four copies of 15 lever arch files containing numerous supporting documents comprising 50,000 pages. Yet, there is no indication that these documents were ever considered. Ultimately, plaintiffs became concerned about procedural irregularities in the Technical Committee proceedings, but defendants never disclosed their corruption of the Committee or the fact that any conclusion was foregone, having been dictated by Soros in advance.

#### **IV. Predicate Illegality 3: Soros and OSF Fabricate and Spread Unfounded and Untrue Accusations Of and Concerning Plaintiffs**

##### **A. Commissioning the Misleading and Untruthful “Veracity” and DLA Piper Reports**

106. Soros needed the camouflage of a veneer of legitimacy in carrying out his smear campaign. He plainly could not use the untainted work done by Heenan Blaikie, the law firm who investigated the matter and found no cause for any accusation of illegal conduct by BSGR and no cause to pull the concession or terminate the Convention. Instead he caused the government and later the Technical Committee to retain his long-time counsel at DLA Piper, Scott Horton (who is located in New York), to conduct an “investigation” of BSGR. According to DLA Piper’s website, among Horton’s “significant clients” are “the governments of . . . Guinea . . . and financier George Soros.” As reported by BLOOMBERG, DLA Piper “was hired by Guinea at the recommendation of hedge fund billionaire George Soros, 82, who’s advising the government through his foundations. Soros . . . funded the initial DLA Piper investigation” (BLOOMBERG, *Guinea Bribe-Probe Defendant Pleads Not Guilty in NYC*, 5/16/2013).

107. Soros conspired with members of the Technical Committee (or alternatively duped them) to perpetrate the fraud of appearing to conduct an impartial and fair investigative process. In reality, the process was intended simply to mouth the conclusion that BSGR should have its contract terminated.

108. Soros and OSF used Horton as an agent tortiously to carry out the delay and ultimate destruction of plaintiffs' investment in Guinea by the revocation of their valid contractual rights. During a conference organized by OSF, Horton himself explained, "in some cases anti-corruption campaigns are used as a political tool". That is exactly what unfolded in relation to BSGR: false corruption allegations were fabricated and circulated to provide justification for removing BSGR from Guinea.

109. Horton retained Steven Fox, the New York based private investigator with the misnamed Veracity Worldwide ("Veracity"), who had previously done work for Soros. Soros, directly or via his controlled entities, funded Veracity's work and controlled its conclusion. Fox dutifully and with the intent to harm plaintiffs issued a report (the "Veracity Report") concluding that BSGR had obtained its rights through bribery and corruption.

110. The Veracity Report's findings were based on nothing more than hearsay and innuendo, and it cited no supporting documents. Indeed, in a recent arbitration, a panel of arbitrators of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration ("CCJA") found that a report by Mr. Fox and Veracity, who were also in this instance retained by Guinea to conduct an investigation (in this case to investigate whether the logistics company GETMA had obtained a port concession by bribing the former government of Guinea) was worthless and totally unreliable. Specifically, the panel found that "Mr Steven Fox was neither a direct or indirect witness of corruption he relates", "he has not made reference to any document", and "[t]he omissions of

which Mr Fox is guilty do not allow for knowledge or verification of his sources, his methods and the content of the information he relates. They do not allow for the Court to verify his allegations.” (The decision of this panel was annulled on procedural grounds without disturbing these credibility determinations.)

111. Soros’ attorneys at DLA Piper purported to prepare their own report about BSGR (the “DLA Piper Report”). Yet that report relied heavily on the bogus Veracity Report. The DLA Piper Report admitted that it relied on certain sources whose credibility was “non-tested” (some of the same “sources” relied on by Fox in the Veracity Report).

112. Before any Technical Committee investigation (which never occurred) and based on these “non-tested” sources, the DLA Report concluded that “sufficient evidence exists to affirm that BSGR acquired its first rights and interests in Simandou and obtained the necessary approvals for the transfer of these rights to Vale by means of acts of corruption, such that an official inquiry led by the competent Guinean authorities in order to confirm these preliminary conclusions would be justified.”

113. The DLA Report mouthed repeatedly that its conclusions were not “definitive” and that plaintiffs should “enjoy the opportunity to respond” to these allegations. In reality, such an opportunity was never contemplated nor provided.

**B. The 2012 Technical Committee Allegations Letter Continues the Scheme by Repeating the Unfounded and Untrue Allegations Concerning BSGR**

114. On October 30, 2012, the Technical Committee sent a letter to BSGR Guinea (the “Allegations Letter”), accusing BSGR of obtaining its mining rights through bribery and corruption.

115. The Allegations Letter was entirely unsubstantiated, as it did not provide the sources of its allegations and did not identify or attach the “evidence” from which it reached its



conclusions. Nor is there any indication from the Allegations Letter that the Technical Committee conducted any of its own investigation, which is not surprising since the work of the Technical Committee was almost entirely outsourced to Soros funded agents. On the contrary, the Allegations Letter relied on and reiterated the conclusions of the unreliable DLA Piper Report that had been funded by Soros and prepared by Horton. In turn, the DLA Piper Report relied on and reiterated the conclusions of the unreliable Veracity Report, also funded by Soros and whose reporting with regard to other Guinean government contracts has been discredited.

116. Importantly, DLA Piper was both the author of the report and advising the Technical Committee in its investigatory role that resulted in the Allegations Letter. In other words, it wrote the report and then controlled how the conclusions in that report would be used by the Technical Committee in the Allegations Letter. Pursuant to defendants' scheme, DLA Piper thus had control over both sides of the "investigation."

117. Although the DLA Piper report did not identify its sources, it gave them codenames and assigned each source a "credibility level" from 1-4. Remarkably, the DLA Piper Report relied on sources to which DLA itself assigned the lowest credibility level of "1". According to the DLA Report's own legend, a credibility level of "1" means the source is "non-tested," and thus unreliable. Yet, the DLA Piper Report relied on the conclusions of these sources in critical aspects of its report. In turn, the Allegations Letter simply repeated the assertions of these dubious sources though it dropped any indication that the source was deemed unreliable even by DLA Piper.

118. The abuse of process and amplification of lies represented by the multistep Fox-DLA-Technical Committee, all deliberately relying on the same untrustworthy sources to create

and republish The Big Lie is manifest proof of defendants' racketeering misconduct directed towards plaintiffs. To give some examples:

119. The DLA Piper Report relied on a Level 1 (incredible) source for the following: "An official of the Guinean Ministry of Mines (Source G4) reported that Mamady Touré (the alleged fourth wife of President Conté) had played a role with Lounceny Nabé, Minister of Mines at that time, to facilitate the transfer of the Simandou licenses from Rio Tinto to BSGR in November or December 2008, before President Conte's death." The Allegations Letter uncritically repeats this accusation in Allegation 12, reporting that "Ms. Touré became actively engaged with high-level officials of the Republic of Guinea organizing meetings with key officials and her husband ... [where] instructions for the rights to the mineral deposits in Simandou to be stripped from the company Rio Tinto, and transferred to BSGR."

120. The sources that DLA assigned a "credibility level" of 4, the highest score and supposedly representing a source that DLA has "tested and [has] great confidence in the source's value," are in fact not any more trustworthy. For instance, one such source is described by DLA in the following way:

A mining company executive based in Paris and Conakry, in charge of major Simandou mining operations and having access to the results of an independent inquiry carried out for his employers into transaction relating to Simandou.

121. This description leaves no doubt that the source was a Rio Tinto executive. No other company would have allocated resources to investigate transactions relating to Simandou, and Rio Tinto would not deny that it had carried out many "inquiries" into Simandou-related transactions. Rio Tinto had offices in Paris and Conakry at that time. In reality, therefore, one of the most "trusted" and "credible" sources in the DLA Piper Report was a high-level executive of BSGR's largest competitor for the mining rights at issue with a clear motive to cause BSGR to

lose its Simandou rights. And the recent scandal which led to the firing or suspension of two of Rio Tinto's senior executives, Debra Valentine and Alan Davies, for their involvement in clandestine dealings and corrupt payments to a government official related to the Simandou mining rights in Guinea, confirms that DLA Piper were actionably complicit in treating Rio Tinto sources as capable of acting honestly or impartially.

122. As further evidence of the DLA Piper Report's credibility scores' lack of utility, Source 03 "a private investigator based in New York state" could not be anyone else other than Fox. Fox, whose work has been found non-credible and unreliable by a neutral arbitration panel, was scored a 3, which the DLA Piper Report describes itself as being "Tested and confident in source's value."

123. The DLA Piper Report also indicates that it relied on purported contracts with Madamie Touré, and information about whom was provided by Mebiame, who recently pleaded guilty to bribing the Government of Guinea, and who was after mining rights in Guinea himself (including BSGR's rights).

124. On any objective view, the allegations made against BSGR in the DLA Piper Report, which were based in part on the Veracity Report issued by the discredited Fox, ought to have carried little to no weight. In practice, however, that report became the cornerstone of the entire pretextual "review process".

125. The unreliable and misleading claims in Fox's Veracity report went into the DLA Piper Report and from there were transported into the formal allegations made by the government of Guinea against BSGR in the Allegations Letter, without any critical scrutiny along the way. The following paragraphs are just a few examples:

- a. Without evidence, the Veracity Report claimed that Frederic Cilins caused pharmaceuticals to be imported into Guinea and donated to the Henriette Conté

Foundation (a charity of one of President Conté's wives). The report claimed these pharmaceuticals "cost between US\$3,000 to US\$4,000 per unit. However, the donated medicine had a perceived value far greater . . . The perceived value was in the tens of thousands of dollars." The DLA Piper Report restated but amplified the irresponsible statement: "Frederic Cilins procured a cargo of pharmaceutical products having a value of approximately 10,000 USD for Henriette Conté's foundation." In the Allegation Letter, Allegation 3 of the Allegations Letter simply repeated this accusation: "Mr. Cilins tried to develop a special relationship with Ms. Henriette Conté, the first wife of the former President of the Republic, Mr. Lansana Conté. He obtained pharmaceutical products with a market value of about USD10,000 and donated them to a charitable foundation headed by Ms. Conté."

- b. Similarly, the Veracity Report claimed that a BSGR employee "presented a scale model of a Formula 1 race car covered in diamonds under a Plexiglas cover to the Minister [of Mines] as a gift . . . The 'toy' car was presented during a televised ceremony. [Cilins] has no idea what became of the diamond-covered car, which was likely a 1/24 scale." The DLA Piper Report again repeats but embellishes. The DLA Piper Report says that in 2005 the Minister of Mines was delivered "a miniature reproduction of a Formula 1 racecar (1/24 scale) in gold and set with diamonds, under a protective plexiglas cover. . . The value of this gift, and what became of it, is unknown. . . The delivery of this gift was made during a public ceremony." Allegation 7 simply repeats that that employee "offered a miniature Formula 1 race car to the Ministry of Mines, this car which had been rendered at a scale of 1:24, in gold and set with diamonds, under Plexiglas." Intolerably missing by the third iteration is the fact that the whole episode, done on TV, was obviously not a bribe and was entirely anodyne.

126. Additionally, the Allegations Letter included numerous statements that the DLA Piper Report itself said had little or no support, including:

- a. The DLA Piper Report said about alleged cash payments to military leaders in Guinea in 2009-2010, that "information [...] is limited" and that there was "no clear information that would make it possible to establish a connection between cash payments [...] involving BSGR's rights to Simandou". But it was included in the Allegations Letter at Allegation 22.
- b. The DLA Piper Report concluded about an alleged delivery of a cheque by BSGR to Ms Touré for "10 or 7 million USD", which apparently bounced, that it was "unusual for payments of this type to be made [i.e. by cheque]" and "it appears strange that the cheque was refused". The report was unable to identify any evidential basis for this allegation. But this was included in the Allegations Letter at Allegation 10.
- c. As to one of the central allegations of bribery, the DLA Piper Report conceded: "Currently, no evidence has been found, but it is certain that monetary benefits offered during this period would have reached into the several millions of dollars." If

there is no evidence, as the report claimed, it was wholly inappropriate to make this assertion. Yet, it is included in the Allegations Letter at Allegation 23.

127. Simply put, the Technical Committee’s “investigation” was a farce, spewing the “Garbage Out” from the Soros-driven “Garbage In”; it served merely to establish the illusion of legitimacy in the illicit campaign to rid BSGR of its rights (BLOOMBERG, *Steinmetz \$9 Billion Fortune at Risk in Soros-Backed Probe*, 5/9/2013).

128. This was all part of defendants’ use of its agents DLA Piper and Veracity as a conduit to transmit misleading statements to the Technical Committee, while at the same time making the process appear to be objective and impartial. In fact, in the Allegations Letter (which relied on DLA Piper and Veracity’s false reporting) the Technical Committee falsely told plaintiffs that the purpose of the letter was for an “**objective and rigorous review of all of the records . . . before making its recommendations to the Strategic Committee . . .**” Yet, in the very same letter, the Technical Committee stated that BSGR had not provided an “adequate response” to the November 17, 2011 letter from the Minister of Mines. This despite the detailed response, access to a data room, and production of over 50,000 pages of hard copy documents in response to that letter.

129. Indeed, despite being charged with investigating all of the mining companies, the Technical Committee focused only on BSGR and did not apply similar scrutiny to its “investigations” of any other mining companies.

130. To cause BSGR further damage, Soros and his coconspirators leaked the contents of the Allegations Letter to the press prior to its being sent to BSGR (and despite the fact that it was supposed to be confidential). Soros and his agents arranged the leak to Misha Glenny of the FINANCIAL TIMES, who then co-authored the article (*see* FINANCIAL TIMES, *Guinea’s first freely elected government reignites \$2.5bn mining tussle*, 11/2/2012). Notably, Glenny sits on the

advisory board of Global Witness, a non-governmental organization that derives approximately 50% of its income from Soros-related entities, including OSF. Global Witness was later used by Soros and his agents improperly to continue to spread the unfounded and untrue allegations concerning BSGR.

131. The publication of the Allegations Letter caused Mebiame to approach Thiam (former Minister of Mines for Guinea). According to a transcript of a December 2, 2012 conversation between Mebiame and Thiam, Mebiame admitted to Thiam that he had been directly involved in trying to take shares in Guinean state mining assets away from the companies who contractually owned those assets. Mebiame told Thiam that BSGR was the first “case” that he was given.

132. Recent evidence from the criminal trial of Thiam in the United States provides further confirmation that while companies like Rio Tinto and BHP offered bribes to gain influence, BSGR did not. For example, in a publically available tape recorded interrogation of Thiam by the FBI concerning his acceptance of bribes relating to Guinean mining, Thiam stated that Steinmetz “never offered me anything. He had no reason.” He explained that BSGR:

**was not in violation . . . [Steinmetz] was in a position where the private government had legally awarded him that permit. . . .** He was doing his work. He was actually working faster than the others. And the only thing he needed is when he was under attack that the government or the ministry comes and makes sure that the law is applied. So he had no reason to pay anyone.

133. Thiam later added, “When I came in, [BSGR] had the permit legally in hand. It went through every single step required by the mining process to get to where he was. He had all the approvals and decrees. . . . According to Guinean law, the permit was legally obtained. It was illegally seized. It was legally obtained according to the Guinean mining law.” By contrast, in the same interrogation, Thiam reported receiving offers of bribes from Rio Tinto, Rusal and

BHP. This same evidence was given by several Guinean officials in various of the proceedings that Soros has caused to be initiated against BSGR.

**C. Soros and OSF Cause FTI to Cancel Its Contract With BSGR**

134. Once the Allegations Letter was leaked, Soros sought to prevent BSGR from adequately responding to the media attention which followed, by pressuring its public relations firm, FTI, improperly to terminate its agreement with BSGR, and instructing his agents to continue to disseminate unfounded and untrue rumors concerning BSGR to the media.

135. BSGR had retained FTI as its communications consultant in May 2009 to defend and protect BSGR's interests after it became aware of untrue allegations being made by a competitor, Rio Tinto. Yet, on November 14, 2012, a point at which BSGR had its greatest need for FTI's expertise, FTI terminated the contract without notice. FTI provided little to no explanation, stating only that "circumstances have created a business conflict which cannot be allowed to continue."

136. Those "circumstances" were precipitated by the continued pressure exerted on FTI by Soros, OSF, and their agents to cancel the contract. They did so through a close friend of Soros, who sat on the boards of several non-governmental organizations sponsored by Soros. At the same time, that person also served as FTI's Chairman of Europe, Middle East, and Africa. At or around the same the Soros-driven Allegations Letter was leaked to the FINANCIAL TIMES, Soros or his agents frequently called and effectively forced his friend at FTI to cancel the BSGR contract. According to FTI, Soros requested that the agreement be terminated on the basis of several unspecified allegations regarding the integrity of BSGR's business practices, and even went as far as to claim to FTI that individuals affiliated with BSGR were involved in a plot to assassinate Condé in 2011 without citing any evidence for this scurrilous allegation.

137. On October 29, 2012, Mr. Brewerton, the head of the FTI account team for BSGR, told Mr. Dag Cramer of Onyx, an agent for BSGR, that “George Soros had personally requested” that FTI “cancel its contractual arrangements with BSGR.” Additionally, Soros’ friend at FTI, Lord Malloch Brown, informed OSF that FTI had terminated its retainer with BSGR, even before that issue had been discussed with BSGR itself. A financial advisor to BSGR was informed by a Managing Director contact at FTI, Ben Brewerton, that “George Soros had requested directly of [Lord Malloch Brown] that [FTI] cancel its contractual arrangements with BSGR.”

138. Making matters worse, Soros also caused the fact of the contract’s termination to be leaked to the FINANCIAL TIMES before BSGR was notified. An individual at FTI informed BSGR that a journalist for the FINANCIAL TIMES, who had previously been involved with articles making allegations against BSGR, knew that BSGR lost its contract at least nine days before it was terminated.

139. These efforts were intentionally done by Soros, OSF, and their agents, and were strategically timed to cause maximum damage to plaintiffs. According to individuals at FTI, Soros’s plan all along was to “key this thing up [*i.e.*, the investigation of BSGR] for the committee to review,” and his effort to interfere with BSGR’s agreement left BSGR, in FTI’s words, “up a creek without a paddle.”

#### **D. Soros and OSF Continue Spreading Unfounded and Untrue Accusations Of and Concerning Plaintiffs**

140. Soros, OSF, and its agents, including DLA Piper, continued to spread these unfounded and untruthful allegations concerning BSGR. For example, during a radio interview on July 5, 2013, Horton described the Simandou deal as “fundamentally wrong”, “one of the most astonishing corruption plays” he had ever seen and that there was “little factual doubt” in



the truth of the allegations. Similarly, suggesting the guilt of individuals associated with BSGR, in an article in THE NEW YORKER, dated July 8, 2013, Horton states that “Steinmetz’s future travel options may be limited”. Horton made these statements notwithstanding the lack of factual basis of the DLA Piper Report and the Allegations Letter, and even though the Technical Committee “review” (as to which DLA Piper was purportedly “advising” the Committee, at the behest of Soros) was still underway.

141. While one Soros-controlled NGO was providing legal and framework assistance (see ¶¶ 76-77), Soros’ mouthpiece Global Witness (which Soros heavily funded and still does) launched a media attack against BSGR, publishing Horton’s unfounded and untruthful allegations in a series of press releases. This is indicative of defendants’ strategy: to orchestrate Soros’ alter egos – his controlled NGOs – to work in unison toward a common goal or purpose, in this case to discredit BSGR and create an echo chamber of false allegations about its legitimate business activities.

142. Soros used Global Witness as part of his scheme. In fact, as reported in the press “Soros is one of the biggest contributors to Global Witness’s financial basket. . . . [A]nd there is a report stating that an investigation by Global Witness into corruption in Guinea was largely influenced by George Soros himself” (See HUFFINGTON POST, *George Soros’ Machination and the Left’s Hypocrisy*, 6/9/2017).

143. In furtherance of defendants’ scheme, which rested in part on “buy-in” from the public at large (including the Guinean people, who stood to lose the most), while the Technical Committee was conducting its “review,” Soros-controlled Global Witness issued a series of releases and reports that falsely accused BSGR of corruption. For example, on November 9, 2012, Global Witness issued a press release about BSGR stating that “Global Witness believes

that the Guinean government should seek redress for any large-scale corruption that has taken place in relation to the blocks covering Simandou or any other asset.”

144. On April 16, 2013, Global Witness issued a further press release headed “Corruption arrest in US puts Beny Steinmetz Group Resources in the frame.” It noted that “If BSGR wishes to put an end to this controversy it should publicly address these questions in detail.”

145. On April 19, 2013, Global Witness published a report based on documents purported to be evidence of BSGR’s bribery. The Global Witness report comments that “. . . we have seen three **leaked** letters from BSGR to the review committee” (documents submitted to the Technical Committee were deemed confidential under the “terms of Reference for Guinea Contract review process” attached to the Allegations Letter). Global Witness concluded: “it’s time BSGR stopped dodging the questions – and started providing answers.”

146. On July 18, 2013, Corinna Gilfillan, a director at Global Witness, testified at a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, a subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Ms. Gilfillan’s false testimony concerning Guinean mining – which mentioned only BSGR by name – concluded “[t]he evidence suggests that BSGR may have obtained its rights to one of the world’s most important mining assets through bribery.”

147. On August 15, 2013, Global Witness issued a press release headed “New evidence ties BSGR to company behind Guinea mine bribery”, attaching a 12-page briefing containing allegations against BSGR. This demonstrated that Global Witness had been given access to the Technical Committee’s information notwithstanding the fact that the Technical Committee information was to be kept confidential.

148. As a lynchpin to forging their “united position”, defendants used Global Witness to encourage international authorities to criminally investigate BSGR. On September 5, 2013, Global Witness issued a press release headed “SFO should act to investigate London link in BSGR’s Guinea mine scandal”. It called upon both the UK Serious Fraud Office and the Guinean authorities to commence criminal investigations into BSGR and carry out searches on their premises. It said that: “The UK Serious Fraud Office should take action following police raids in Switzerland and France on properties linked to Onyx Financial Advisors . . . . Officials in the dependency of Guernsey should also move to secure evidence from BSGR’s official headquarters on the island . . . . Global Witness calls on the SFO to act swiftly before evidence is lost.”

149. Additionally, the July 8, 2013 article in THE NEW YORKER that accuses Steinmetz of securing Simandou through corrupt means includes quotes from Soros and Horton and other Soros related individuals.

**E. Soros and OSF’s Scheme is Successful in Delaying, Damaging, and Destroying Plaintiffs’ Guinea Investment**

150. BSGR presented the government of Guinea exculpatory material proving the falsity of the allegations against it. In addition to the material provided earlier in response to the letter from the Minister of Mines, on December 26, 2012, BSGR responded to the Allegations Letter. On numerous occasions, BSGR asked the Technical Committee to disclose its evidence. It was not until May 7, 2013, that the Technical Committee provided a handful of documents, and only after these documents had been leaked to the press. The Technical Committee repeated the allegations in an Allegations Letter dated November 1, 2013. Then, after additional requests for disclosure, the Technical Committee disclosed more documents on December 4, 2013. In the December 4, 2013 letter, the Technical Committee stated that it was relying upon the Veracity

Report “to confirm the allegations contained in the successive letters previously sent by the CTRTCM [Technical Committee]”. BSGR responded to the allegations by letter again on December 8, 2013.

151. Yet, despite this, on March 21, 2014, the Soros funded Technical Committee – without justification – recommended that the Minister of Mines (1) withdraw the Blocks 1 and 2 Permit; (2) withdraw the Zogota Mining Concession; and (3) cancel the Convention. The Technical Committee continued to rely upon the Veracity report, the DLA Piper report and it also improperly relied on an unreliable affidavit of Mamadie Touré dated December 2, 2013, as well as on forged contracts shown to DLA Piper by Mebiame. DLA Piper was also in the chain of custody concerning the contracts.

152. In 2013 Mamadie Touré received at least \$50,000 in checks from Mamoudou Kouyaté (special advisor to President Alpha Condé) and thereafter a possible \$80,000 more from an agent or associate of Soros. These payments alone make the affidavit unreliable.

153. Kouyaté later authored an affidavit in which he makes clear that he served as an agent of DLA Piper: “On 6 July 2013, I met with Ms. Yarié Touré . . . I met her at the request of the DLA office to obtain information on the relationship maintained by her sister, Mamadié Touré with the late General Lansana Conté, former President of the Republic of Guinea.”

154. The Technical Committee did not discuss or reference any of the evidence provided by BSGR.

155. On April 2, 2014, the Strategic Committee issued an opinion to President Alpha Condé and the Minister of Mines and Geology agreeing with the Technical Committee’s report and recommendation.

156. On April 17, 2014, President Condé issued an Order terminating the Zogota Mining Concession to BSGR.

157. On April 18, 2014, the Minister of Mines and Geology of Guinea terminated the Block 1 & 2 Permit to BSGR.

158. On April 23, 2014, the Minister of Mines and Geology of Guinea terminated the Convention with BSGR.

159. On April 24, 2014, the government of Guinea informed BSGR of the acts of revocation and termination.

160. This was a *fait accompli*. Prior to even the commencement of the review, it is obvious that Guinea viewed the removal of BSGR's contractual rights as a foregone conclusion. Well before the Technical Committee had completed its review, both the Minister of Mines and President Condé had made it clear that BSGR's mining rights were going to be revoked, as did Soros's agent DLA Piper through Horton's public statements in 2013 impugning BSGR and Steinmetz. In October 2013, President Condé declared in a speech that his government had "started a battle to recover our mines that were acquired fraudulently." In an interview in November 2013 he likewise made it clear that he had decided that BSGR's mining rights should be removed and that he was very closely involved in the Committee process.

**V. Predicate Illegality 4: Soros Seals the Interference, and BSGR's Fate, Through Bribing Guinean Officials**

161. To make sure it all worked as he designed it, Soros paid Mamadie Touré (para. 151, *supra*) as well as Guinean officials to influence proceedings in Guinea and cause the termination of the BSGR mining agreements. Based on the duly executed declaration of an intermediary involved in the transactions, who avows to first-hand knowledge, Soros arranged

for money to be paid personally to the head of the Technical Committee and a member of the Strategic Committee to ensure that BSGR's rights were terminated.

162. Specifically, Soros' son Robert Daniel Soros, through the intermediary, who served as a coordinator for the government of Guinea, made payments to the head of the Technical Committee with the purpose and intent to influence the Technical Committee review process and cause the termination of BSGR's mining agreements, permits, and licenses. On or about April 2, 2013, through his son Robert Daniel Soros, Soros transferred \$93,000 to the government coordinator who, on the following day, made a payment of the \$93,000 to Mr. Nava Touré, the chairman of the Technical Committee. Robert Daniel Soros told the coordinator that the payment was to ensure that the Technical Committee would terminate BSGR's mining agreements.

163. Similarly, on or about March 26, 2014, Soros' son Jonathan Soros contacted the intermediary and instructed him to transfer \$1,270,000 that had been deposited into the intermediary's account to the account of Mr. Yansané Kerfalla, the Minister of Finances and a member of the Strategic Committee that reviewed the recommendations of the Technical Committee as to BSGR's mining agreements. The intermediary was told by or on behalf of Soros that this payment was intended to influence the Strategic Committee to terminate BSGR's mining rights.

164. Thus, Soros exercised complete control over the process – he initiated the breach by his pay up or be terminated ultimatum and publicly announced it with Condé; Guinea couldn't afford the apparatus of its deceptive investigation without Soros, so he enlisted his funded organizations using his "direct advocacy and public outreach" strategy; he used his own investigator and lawyer to carry out his wishes, placing them in positions of influence over the

ostensibly neutral Technical Committee; and to make sure it all worked as he designed it he paid off the people in the government to make sure the termination went through.

165. The terminations of BSGR's agreements with the government of Guinea breached BSGR's contractual rights and harmed BSGR. There would not have been a breach but for the activities of defendants. The terminations were the culmination of the lengthy scheme by Soros, the OSF Entities, and their agents to interfere with its contractual rights and remove it from Guinea.

166. These terminations not only harmed BSGR by removing from it a contract worth at least \$5 billion, but they also ensured that the investment of at least \$800 million by BSGR was lost. To date, Guinea has not compensated BSGR for its \$800 million investment in Guinea. What is more, Guinea kept the fruits of BSGR's capital and labor – including the feasibility studies for Zogota and Simandou Blocks 1 & 2, the work undertaken at Zogota, the progress made on various railways, and the camps and expensive equipment at BSGR's sites, estimated at an over \$5 billion loss. BSGR has since challenged Guinea's conduct in an arbitration currently pending in Paris before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, the allegations of which are not repeated here. *See BSG Resources Limited, et al. v. Republic of Guinea*, Case No. ARB/14/22.

#### **VI. Predicate Illegality 5: Soros and OSF Continue to Harm BSGR Even After Delaying, Damaging, and Destroying Plaintiffs' Investment in Guinea**

167. Soros and OSF used their wide networks to place worldwide pressure on BSGR, including provoking the unjustified opening of criminal investigations, in furtherance of their conspiracy to harm plaintiffs.

168. For example, Soros used his political connections with President Obama and the U.S. Administration to organize a meeting between Condé and President Obama that is believed

to have taken place in 2011. Shortly thereafter, as Soros intended and through the use of his law firm and agent DLA Piper, an investigation was opened into BSGR and connected entities.

169. As a result of Soros's wrongdoing, a criminal investigation in Guinea was commenced into BSGR and its employees. As a result, Guinea arrested and prosecuted two of BSGR's employees, Mr. Issiaga Bangoura and Mr. Ibrahima Soury Touré. These arrests were made respectively on April 16, 2013 and April 19, 2013 on the ground of passive corruption. The employees were held without trial or due process for seven months.

170. On November 13, 2013, both employees filed a complaint of violation of human rights at the Registry of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice. They relied inter alia on Articles 9 and 14 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Articles 7, 9 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Articles 6 and 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). On February 16, 2016, the ECOWAS Court of Justice delivered a verdict against Guinea in relation to its so-called corruption investigation. In particular, Guinea was found guilty of arbitrary detention, violating the right to an effective recourse, and violating the principles of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms. To repair Guinea's violations, the ECOWAS Court of Justice ordered Guinea to indemnify Mr. Bagoura and Mr. Touré and pay them respectively CAF 15 million and 30 million.

171. The pressure placed on Israel by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ("OECD") based on these unfounded and untrue allegations ultimately led to the opening of a criminal investigation into Mr. Steinmetz. As the Israeli authorities made clear in their statement to the media, "[t]he investigation is being carried out in cooperation with law enforcement authorities in the United States, Switzerland, Guinea and Israel, **as part of an**



*international effort led by the OECD against the bribing of public officials worldwide”*

(emphasis added). It is noteworthy that the OECD High-Level Advisory Group on Anti-Corruption is made up of individuals who are intimately related to Soros and the OSF Entities as well as NRGi (formerly RWI) and other NGOs working closely with each other and Rio Tinto. Mr. Neville Tiffen is a member of the Board of Transparency International Australia (and former global head of Compliance for Rio Tinto reporting to Debra Valentine, Rio Tinto former head of legal and compliance, suspended in relation to de Combret scandal) and Nancy Boswell is the former CEO of Transparency International (“TI”) in the United States, which is supported by OSF, Daniel Kaufmann is the President and CEO of NRGi (formerly RWI, which was intimately involved in Guinea’s revocation of BSGR’s rights) and a member of the Advisory Board of TI, Peter Eigen is the founder of TI, a previous chairman of EITI (and today a special representative of EITI) and a member of the advisory council of NRGi, and Huguette Labelle is the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of TI. The OECD Advisory Council acted as agents for defendants to pressure Israeli authorities to open their investigation, causing yet further damage to plaintiffs and providing a cloak of legitimacy to Guinea’s revocation of BSGR’s rights.

172. Defendants continued to spread the untrue and unfounded allegations including within the past twelve months. For example, a December 19, 2016 article stated, “[a]ccording to Global Witness, which investigated the case, BSGR and its affiliates engaged in a ‘sophisticated corruption scheme’ over Simandou cloaking their activities through secretive companies in the British Islands” (ASSOCIATED PRESS, *Israeli police arrest tycoon suspected of bribery in Guinea*, 12/19/2016).

173. This continued campaign by Soros and OSF and their agents against plaintiffs has caused BSGR to lose many business opportunities.

174. For example, recently a Steinmetz related entity spent three years negotiating the purchase of certain assets sold by the largest gas company in Israel. The parties had reached agreement subject to governmental approval. The Israeli Minister of Petroleum refused to approve the sale because of the unfounded rumors and investigations instigated by Soros and the OSF Entities. As a direct, proximate result of Soros and the OSF Entities' actions, this entity lost at least \$500 million. This BSGR entity has transferred its rights to bring this action to BSGR.

175. Plaintiffs have complied with their obligations under the Convention and related agreements and have satisfied any and all conditions precedent to suit on any contract or other claims herein, except those that have been waived. In the exercise of reasonable diligence, plaintiffs did not and could not have found out the fraud and other wrongdoing acted upon them until within any applicable limitations period.

### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

#### **Count 1: Tortious Interference With Contract (Against all Defendants)**

176. BSGR repeats and realleges all other paragraphs of this Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

177. On December 9, 2008, the Republic of Guinea granted the Blocks 1 and 2 Permit, pursuant to which BSGR was granted the right to prospect for iron ore in Simandou Blocks 1 and 2.

178. On December 16, 2009, BSGR Guernsey, BSGR Guinea, and the Republic of Guinea entered into the Convention, pursuant to which BSGR was granted the exclusive right to conduct commercial mining activities in the Simandou South region of Guinea, and which permitted BSGR to export and sell on the international market all iron ore located therein.

179. On March 19, 2010, Guinea, under its new president General Sékouba Konaté, ratified the Convention through the Zogota Mining Concession, which granted to BSGR Guinea an exclusive mining concession in Simandou South.

180. The Convention and related agreements constitute valid, legal, binding, and enforceable contracts.

181. At all relevant times, Soros (individually and in his capacity as founder and chairman of OSF) and other of Soros's agents were fully aware of the Convention and related agreements and of plaintiffs' rights thereunder.

182. At all relevant times, Soros (individually and in his capacity as founder and chairman of OSF) and other of Soros's agents also were fully aware of BSGR's rights under the Convention and related agreements, as demonstrated by (among other things) a March 3, 2011 draft memorandum of understanding between OSF and a Vale entity, titled "Regarding a Possible Advance Payment of Tax on Mining Substances from Projects in the Republic of Guinea," which expressly referred to those rights.

183. Soros and the OSF Entities utilized wrongful means to induce the Government of Guinea to breach the Convention and related agreements and delay, damage, and terminate BSGR's rights thereunder in April 2014.

184. The intentional acts described above, by and on behalf of Soros and the OSF Entities, were the direct, proximate, and foreseeable cause of Guinea's breach of the Convention and related agreements pursuant to which BSGR was unlawfully stripped of its valuable mining and prospecting rights in Guinea. But for the intentional acts undertaken by defendants and their agents, the Convention would not have been breached.

185. The aforementioned acts of Soros, the OSF Entities, and their agents were willful, wanton, oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, demonstrating such a dishonesty as to imply a criminal indifference to their private and public civil obligations and thereby warranting an award of punitive damages, in addition to the actual damages suffered by BSGR.

186. As a result of the foregoing, BSGR has sustained severe economic injury for which it is entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages in amounts to be determined at trial as well as equitable relief including without limitation an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this Amended Complaint and a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights wrongfully interfered with or converted.

**Count 2: Conspiracy to Commit Tortious Interference With Contract  
and Other Illegal Acts  
(Against all Defendants)**

187. BSGR repeats and realleges all other paragraphs of this Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

188. Defendants Soros and the OSF Entities, knowingly, intentionally, and corruptly acted in concert and conspired to delay, damage, and terminate BSGR's rights under the Convention and related agreements, and to that end, tortiously interfered with BSGR's contractual rights as alleged herein.

189. Their agreement to interfere with plaintiffs' rights began earlier than March 2011 when Soros and advisors, including those from the OSF Entities, met with Condé in Guinea, and announced their "support" for Condé's plan to re-examine existing mining contracts and desire to "help President Condé put these [plans] into effect". (Press Release, Open Society

Foundations, *George Soros and President Alpha Condé of Guinea Hold Joint Press Conference*, 3/2/2011.)

190. Soros and the OSF Entities intentionally participated in, and took overt acts in furtherance of, their agreement, demonstrating their shared corrupt purpose.

191. These and other intentional acts actually, directly, and proximately caused Guinea to breach the Convention and related agreements, thereby unlawfully stripping BSGR of its rights. But for the intentional acts undertaken by Soros and the OSF Entities and their agents and coconspirators, the Convention and related agreements would not have been breached.

192. The aforementioned acts of Soros and the OSF Entities were willful, wanton, oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, demonstrating such a dishonesty as to imply a criminal indifference to their private and public civil obligations and thereby warranting an award of punitive damages, in addition to the actual damages suffered by BSGR.

193. As a result of the foregoing, BSGR has sustained severe economic injury for which it is entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages, jointly and severally from each defendant, in amounts to be determined at trial as well as equitable relief including without limitation an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this Amended Complaint and a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights wrongfully interfered with or converted.

**Count 3: Fraud, Misrepresentation, and  
Conspiracy to Commit Fraud and Misrepresentation  
(Against George Soros)**

194. BSGR repeats and realleges all other paragraphs of this Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

195. Soros conspired with others, including members of the Technical Committee, fraudulently to induce the Technical Committee to make it appear that it was conducting an impartial and fair review when in fact it was carrying out defendants' illegal racketeering activities.

196. Soros publically announced that "all mining contracts" would be "re-examined and **those who want to validate those claims will have to subscribe to the principles of EITI** . . . ." These statements implied a fair and impartial review of BSGR's Convention and related agreements.

197. Soros's statements were false or misleading. In fact, the process was rigged to reach the conclusion that BSGR's Convention and related agreements should be terminated and its valuable rights revoked. Soros knew upon making these statements that the conclusion of the Technical Committee was pre-ordained and that his statements were false or materially misleading.

198. In order to ensure that the Technical Committee and then the Strategic Committee achieved the desired result and terminated the mining agreements, permits, and licenses of BSGR, George Soros directed certain of his sons (acting as his agent for these purposes) to pay money to directly to members of the committees. For example, in or around April 2013, he directed his son Robert Daniel Soros to pay money to Nava Touré (head of the Technical Committee) through an intermediary. He also directed his son Jonathan Soros to ensure that payments of more than one million dollars were made to Yansane Kerfalla (then the Minister of Finances and a member of the Strategic Committee) through intermediaries in or around March, 2014.

199. Soros conspired with and/or misled members of the Technical Committee, with the intention and effect of defrauding plaintiffs, and the Technical Committee did not disclose to BSGR that the process was rigged, though defendants and they had a duty to do so.

200. To the contrary, the Technical Committee stated that it would be conducting a legitimate, fair, and impartial investigation.

201. Soros never disclosed his corruption of the Committee or the fact that any conclusion by the Committee was dictated by Soros in advance and continued to mislead plaintiffs. Despite plaintiffs' concerns about procedural irregularities, they expended significant resources and effort in reliance on the independence of the Committee and its obligation to consider plaintiffs' evidence provided in rebuttal to the irresponsible allegations of wrongdoing, and to demonstrate that there was no basis for these claims. It was never disclosed to plaintiffs that because the Committee's conclusion was preordained by Soros, it never considered – and never planned to consider – this evidence.

202. In addition, BSGR spent money on developing its mining capability and rights.

203. The aforementioned acts of Soros were willful, wanton, oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, demonstrating such a dishonesty as to imply a criminal indifference to their private and public civil obligations and thereby warranting an award of punitive damages, in addition to the actual damages suffered by plaintiffs.

204. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs have sustained severe economic injury for which they are entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages, jointly and severally from each defendant in amounts to be determined at trial including by expending funds to defend itself and to continue to invest in Guinea as well as equitable relief including without limitation an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the

dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this Amended Complaint and a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights wrongfully interfered with or converted.

**Count 4: Commercial Defamation  
(Against all Defendants)**

205. BSGR repeats and realleges all other paragraphs of this Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

206. Soros and the OSF Entities made statements about BSGR's alleged corruption that Soros and the OSF Entities knew or should have known were unfounded and untrue.

207. These statements were published to the media and government organizations with the intention to impact and harm BSGR.

208. As a direct and proximate result of these statements, BSGR was injured by losing business opportunities that but for the defamatory statements it would have obtained.

209. The aforementioned acts of Soros and the OSF Entities were willful, wanton, oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, demonstrating such a dishonesty as to imply a criminal indifference to their private and public civil obligations and thereby warranting an award of punitive damages, in addition to the actual damages suffered by plaintiffs.

210. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs have sustained severe economic injury for which they are entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages, jointly and severally from each defendant, in amounts to be determined at trial including by expending funds to defend itself and to continue to invest in Guinea as well as equitable relief including without limitation an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this Amended



Complaint and a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights wrongfully interfered with or converted.

**Count 5: Prima Facie Tort  
(Against George Soros)**

211. BSGR repeats and realleges all other paragraphs of this Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

212. Soros and the OSF Entities intentionally sought to harm BSGR through the actions described above. Soros has a long standing antipathy towards BSGR and Mr. Steinmetz and wanted BSGR's contracts with Guinea to be delayed and terminated or heavily curtailed.

213. Solely for the purposes of this cause of action, and in the alternative, plaintiffs plead that Soros was motivated solely by malice, as there was no economic interest he had in Guinea.

214. The intentional acts described above, by and on behalf of Soros, were the direct, proximate, and foreseeable cause of Guinea's breach of the Convention and related agreements pursuant to which plaintiffs were unlawfully stripped of their valuable rights in Guinea. But for the intentional acts undertaken by Soros, OSF and their agents, the Convention and related agreements would not have been breached.

215. The aforementioned acts of Soros and OSF were willful, wanton, oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, demonstrating such a dishonesty as to imply a criminal indifference to their private and public civil obligations and thereby warranting an award of punitive damages, in addition to the actual damages suffered by plaintiffs.

216. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiffs have sustained severe economic injury for which they are entitled to compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages in amounts to be

determined at trial including by expending funds to defend itself, to be determined at or after trial, and to continue to invest in Guinea as well as equitable relief including without limitation an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this Amended Complaint and a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights wrongfully interfered with or converted.

217. As a result of the foregoing, BSGR has sustained specific damages as follows:

- a. BSGR invested \$883,286,336.87 in investing in Guinea on infrastructure and setting up the mining procedure based on its existing contractual rights prior to termination. Specifically: (a) \$581,197,104 to develop the iron ore concession and for infrastructure building; (b) \$84,400,000 in funding for the Simandou feasibility study; and (c) \$80,400,000 for management and control of the day-to-day business activities consisting of \$44,800,000 for personnel, \$20,200,000 for travel, \$15,000,000 for services and \$400,000 on miscellaneous expenses. In addition, between 2006 and 2010: (i) \$47,519,203.83 for contractors and suppliers; (ii) \$2,492,655 for salaries; (iii) \$15,412,251.32 for headquarters and expenses for mining camps; (iv) \$541,274.47 converting dollars into Guinean Francs; \$73,848.25 for the country manager; and (v) \$71,250,000 for accounting, financial, tax, advisory, legal, technical, geological and mining services, information technology and administration services.
- b. The contract itself is conservatively worth \$5 billion calculated by doubling the amount paid for half of the rights by Vale in 2011.

**WHEREFORE**, BSGR demands judgment against defendants, jointly and severally, awarding plaintiffs:

- (a) On the claims for tortious interference, civil conspiracy, fraud and misrepresentation, and conspiracy to commit fraud and misrepresentation, compensatory damages of not less than \$10 billion, jointly and severally against each defendant, together with interest accrued thereon, in total amounts to be determined at trial;
- (b) On the claim for commercial defamation, compensatory damages of not less than \$10 billion, jointly and severally against each defendant, together with interest accrued thereon, in total amounts to be determined at trial.
- (c) On the alternative claim for prima facie tort, relief specifically of \$5,883,286,336.87 together with interest accrued thereon, in total amounts to be determined at trial;
- (d) On all claims for relief, exemplary and punitive damages in amounts to be determined at trial;
- (e) Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- (f) Its costs in the prosecution of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (g) On all claims for relief, an injunction directing defendants to cease and desist from the improper activity including the dissemination of the unfounded and untrue allegations described in this complaint;
- (h) On all claims for relief, equitable relief including without limitation a constructive trust and overseer over Soros's controlled or influenced organizations as well as

an order directing defendants to take all steps necessary to secure the return of all rights of plaintiffs wrongfully interfered with or converted; and

- (i) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY**

Trial by jury is demanded on all issues so triable.

Dated: June 30, 2017  
New York, New York

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

By: /Louis M. Solomon  
Louis M. Solomon

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
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BSG Resources (Guinea) Sàrl and  
BSG Resources Limited

# EXHIBIT A

# George Soros's Illegal Enterprise

George Soros and  
His Army of NGOs

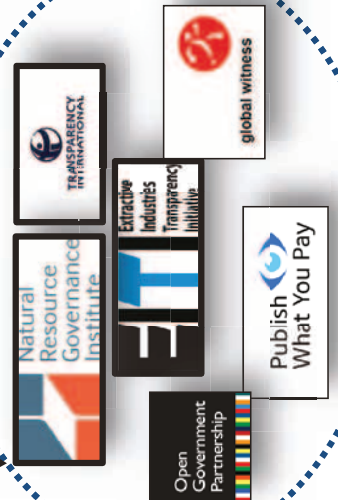


Intermediaries Misused  
By Soros (2 pictured here):  
Guinea and the OECD

Government of Guinea



NGOs Controlled  
by Soros – e.g.,

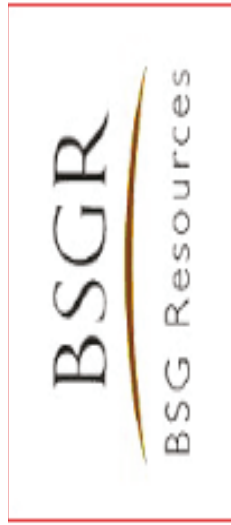


Soros Causes  
Massive  
Harm



Organisation for Economic  
Co-Operation and Development

The Targets of Soros's Direct and Indirect  
Illegalities (Tortious Interference With  
Contract, Defamation, Fraud, Misrep-  
resentation, Conspiracy, Prima Facie Tort):



COMPANIES RELATED  
TO STEINMETZ AND/OR  
BSGR

# **EXHIBIT 2**



## NewsRoom

7/8/13 New Yorker 50  
2013 WLNR 16888121

New Yorker, The  
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Section: fact  
Section: 20

Buried Secrets

Patrick Radden Keefe

One of the world's largest known deposits of untapped iron ore is buried inside a great, forested mountain range in the tiny West African republic of Guinea. In the country's southeast highlands, far from any city or major roads, the Simandou Mountains stretch for seventy miles, looming over the jungle floor like a giant dinosaur spine. Some of the peaks have nicknames that were bestowed by geologists and miners who have worked in the area; one is Iron Maiden, another Metallica. Iron ore is the raw material that, once smelted, becomes steel, and the ore at Simandou is unusually rich, meaning that it can be fed into blast furnaces with minimal processing. During the past decade, as glittering megacities rose across China, the global price of iron soared, and investors began seeking new sources of ore. The red earth that dusts the lush vegetation around Simandou and marbles the mountain rock is worth a fortune.

Mining iron ore is complicated and requires a huge amount of capital. Simandou lies four hundred miles from the coast, in jungle so impassable that the first drill rigs had to be transported to the mountaintops with helicopters. The site has barely been developed—no ore has been excavated. Shipping it to China and other markets will require not only the construction of a mine but the building of a railroad line sturdy enough to support freight cars laden with ore. It will also be necessary to have access to a deepwater port, which Guinea lacks.

Guinea is one of the poorest countries on the planet. There is little industry and scarce electricity, and there are few navigable roads. Public institutions hardly function. More than half the population can't read. "The level of development is equivalent to Liberia or Sierra Leone," a government adviser in Conakry, Guinea's ramshackle seaside capital, told me recently. "But in Guinea we haven't had a civil war." This dire state of affairs was not inevitable, for the country has a bounty of natural resources. In addition to the iron ore in the Simandou range, Guinea has one of the world's largest reserves of bauxite—the ore that, twice refined, makes aluminum—and significant quantities of diamonds, gold, uranium, and, off the coast, oil.

As wealthy countries confront the prospect of rapidly depleting natural resources, they are turning, increasingly, to Africa, where oil and minerals worth trillions of dollars remain trapped in the ground. By one estimate, the continent holds thirty per cent of the world's mineral reserves. Paul Collier, who runs the Center for the Study of African Economies, at Oxford, has suggested that "a new scramble for Africa" is under way. Bilateral trade between China and Africa, which in 2000 stood at ten billion dollars, is projected to top two hundred billion dollars this year. The U.S. now imports more oil from Africa than from the Persian Gulf.

The Western world has always thought of Africa as a continent to take things from, whether it was diamonds, rubber, or slaves. This outlook was inscribed into the very names of Guinea's neighbor Côte d'Ivoire and of Ghana, which was known to its British masters as the Gold Coast. During the Victorian period, the exploitation of resources was especially brutal; King Leopold II, of Belgium, was so rapacious in his pursuit of rubber that ten million people in the Congo Free State died as a result. The new international stampede for African resources could become another grim story, or it could present an unprecedented opportunity for economic development. Collier, who several years ago wrote a best-seller about global poverty, "The Bottom Billion," believes that, for countries like Guinea, the extraction of natural resources, rather than foreign aid, offers the greatest chance of economic progress. Simandou alone could potentially generate a hundred and forty billion dollars in revenue over the next quarter century, more than doubling Guinea's gross domestic product. "The money involved will dwarf everything else," Collier told me. Like the silver mine in Joseph Conrad's novel "Nostromo," the Simandou deposit holds the promise of supplying what Guinea needs most: "law, good faith, order, security."

As with deepwater oil drilling or with missions to the moon, the export of iron ore requires so much investment and expertise that the business is limited to a few major players. In 1997, the exclusive rights to explore and develop Simandou were given to the Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto, which is one of the world's biggest iron-ore producers. In early 2008, Tom Albanese, the company's chief executive, boasted to shareholders that Simandou was, "without doubt, the top undeveloped tier-one iron-ore asset in the world." But shortly afterward the government of Guinea declared that Rio Tinto was developing the mine too slowly, citing progress benchmarks that had been missed, and implying that the company was simply hoarding the Simandou deposit—keeping it from competitors while focussing on mines elsewhere.

In July, 2008, Rio Tinto was stripped of its license. Guinean officials then granted exploration permits for half of the deposit to a much smaller company: Beny Steinmetz Group Resources, or B.S.G.R. Beny Steinmetz is, by some estimates, the richest man in Israel; according to Bloomberg, his personal fortune amounts to some nine billion dollars. Steinmetz, who made his name in the diamond trade, hardly ever speaks to the press, and the corporate structures of his various enterprises are so convoluted that it is difficult to assess the extent of his holdings. The Simandou contract was a surprising addition to Steinmetz's portfolio, because B.S.G.R. had no experience exporting iron ore. A mining executive in Guinea told me, "Diamonds you can carry away from the mine in your pocket. With iron ore, you need infrastructure that can last decades."

Rio Tinto angrily protested the decision. "We are surprised that a company that has never built an iron-ore-mining operation would have been awarded an area of our concession," a spokesman said at the time. Company officials complained to the U.S. Embassy in Conakry; one of them suggested that Steinmetz had no intention of developing the mine himself, and planned instead to flip it—"to obtain the concession and then sell it for a big profit." Rio Tinto viewed Steinmetz, who was rumored to have extensive contacts in Israeli intelligence, as a suspicious interloper. According to a diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks, the general manager of Rio Tinto told the U.S. Embassy that he did not feel comfortable discussing the Simandou matter on an "unsecured" cell phone. Alan Davies, a senior executive at Rio Tinto, told me that the company had invested hundreds of millions of dollars at the site, and had been moving as expeditiously as possible on a project that would have required decades to complete. "This was quite a shocking event for the company," he said.

In April, 2009, the Ministry of Mines in Conakry ratified the agreement with Steinmetz. A year later, he made a deal with the Brazilian mining company Vale—one of Rio Tinto's chief competitors. Vale agreed to pay two and a half billion dollars in exchange for a fifty-one-per-cent stake in B.S.G.R.'s Simandou operations. This was an extraordinary windfall: B.S.G.R. had paid nothing up front, as is customary with exploration licenses, and at that point had invested only a hundred and sixty million dollars. In less than five years, B.S.G.R.'s investment in Simandou had become a five-billion-dollar asset. At that time, the annual budget of the government of Guinea amounted to just \$1.2 billion. Mo Ibrahim,

the Sudanese telecom billionaire, captured the reaction of many observers when he asked, at a forum in Dakar, "Are the Guineans who did that deal idiots, or criminals, or both?"

Steinmetz was proud of the transaction. "People don't like success," he told the Financial Times, in a rare interview, in 2012. "It's disturbing to people that the small David can disturb the big Goliath." He said that it was B.S.G.R.'s strategy to pursue "opportunities in an aggressive way," adding, "You have to get your hands dirty."

In Conakry, there were rumors that Steinmetz had acquired the concession through bribes. According to Transparency International, Guinea is one of the most corrupt countries on earth. A Human Rights Watch report suggested that, when Steinmetz acquired his parcel of Simandou, Guinea was effectively a kleptocracy, with its leaders presiding over "an increasing criminalization of the state." A recent report by the Africa Progress Panel, which is chaired by Kofi Annan, suggests that well-connected foreigners often purchase lucrative assets in Africa at prices far below market value, by offering inducements to predatory local élites. "Africa's resource wealth has bypassed the vast majority of African people and built vast fortunes for a privileged few," it says. The report highlights the billions of dollars that Vale agreed to pay Steinmetz for Simandou, noting that "the people of Guinea, who appear to have lost out as a result of the undervaluation of the concession, will not share in that gain."

In 2010, several months after the Vale deal was announced, Guinea held its first fully democratic elections since independence, ending half a century of authoritarian rule. The new President, Alpha Condé, had run on a platform of good governance and greater transparency in the mining sector. But as he took office he faced the possibility that Guinea's most prized mineral asset may have been traded out from under the country. He could not simply void the contract. "There is continuity of the state," he told me recently. "I couldn't put things back where they had been—unless I had right on my side." B.S.G.R. denied any wrongdoing: "These allegations are false, and are a smear campaign against B.S.G.R.," a company spokesman told me. If the Simandou license had been secured through bribery, then the deal could potentially be undone. But Condé and his advisers would have to prove it.

"I inherited a country but not a state," Condé told me when I first met him, in January. He had come to the Swiss Alps to attend the World Economic Forum, in Davos, and we met in a hotel suite that was bathed in sunlight reflecting off the snowbanks outside. Condé is a tall man with a high forehead, and he has small eyes that light up with wry amusement when he listens. He wore a brown suit and a red tie. Lowering himself into a wingback chair, he listed slightly to the right while we talked, in a posture of heavy-lies-the-crown fatigue. At times, his elbow appeared to be propping up his whole body, like a tent pole.

When he was elected President, Condé was seventy-two years old, and he had spent much of his life in exile. He left Guinea as a boy, when it was still ruled by France, and eventually settled in Paris, where he became a leader of the pan-African student movements of the nineteen-sixties. He studied law, lectured at the University of Paris, and emerged as perhaps the most famous member of the Guinean opposition. For this distinction, he was sentenced to death, in absentia, by the first despot to rule an independent Guinea, and jailed for more than two years by the second, after he returned, in 1991, to run, unsuccessfully, for President. The 2010 election was bitter—his challenger, Cellou Dalein Diallo, had been a government minister when Condé was thrown in jail. After Condé was finally inaugurated as President, he pledged to be the Nelson Mandela of Guinea.

First, he told me, he had to confront the legacy of a decades-long "state of anarchy." The government in Conakry had a Potemkin quality: a profusion of bureaucrats showed up for work at crumbling administrative buildings, but there was little genuine institutional capacity. "The central bank, they were printing counterfeit money," Condé said. Yet he couldn't fire every official; he'd have to make do with a civil service that had never known anything but graft. "Almost everybody who had any expertise was compromised," one person who has advised Condé told me. "So he had to balance between people who were competent but compromised and people who were upstanding but inexperienced."

Condé was defensive about the fact that he had spent so much of his life abroad; when I raised the subject, he snapped, "I know Guinea better than those who have never left." But his outsider status meant that he was not implicated in the scandals of past administrations. And, having spent much of his life in France, he was strikingly at ease in places like Davos. The U.S. Ambassador in Conakry, Alex Laskaris, told me, "Condé has a much broader circle of contacts and advisers globally than any other African head of state I've dealt with." Bernard Kouchner, the former foreign minister of France, went to high school with Condé, and is a good friend. Kouchner introduced him to George Soros, the billionaire financier, who became an informal adviser, and connected him with Paul Collier, the Oxford economist. Collier, in turn, introduced Condé to Tony Blair, who offered him assistance through an organization that he runs, the Africa Governance Initiative.

These Westerners saw in Condé an opportunity to save Guinea. Collier told me that what the country needed above all was "integrity at the top." Condé could be ornery; he had a tendency to lecture his interlocutors as though they were students. And, after a life spent in perpetual opposition, it was not clear how well he would govern. From the start, he had difficulties. He came into office with a commitment to complete Guinea's democratic transition by holding parliamentary elections, but he delayed them, ostensibly on procedural grounds, then delayed them again. Opposition riots broke out in Conakry, leading to a series of violent confrontations between demonstrators and government security forces.

For all the tumult, Condé's foreign friends and advisers maintain faith in his ethics. "He is absolutely incorruptible," Kouchner told me. "He's not luxurious. He's not travelling. He is having a cold potato at night!" Corinne Dufka, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, has not lost hope that Condé can succeed as a reformer. "There's a lot of work to be done for Guinea to overcome its legacy of abusive rule," she said. "Power remains too heavily concentrated in the executive, and, without a robust judiciary or a democratically elected parliament, there is next to no oversight, which they desperately need. But Condé has made real progress in confronting the disastrous governance and rights problems he inherited."

It is no easy task to transform a country that is corrupt from top to bottom. During Condé's first months in office, he performed a kind of triage. With the assistance of Revenue Watch—an organization, backed by Soros, that encourages transparency in extractive industries—Condé established a committee to inspect existing mining contracts and determine if any of them were problematic. He didn't know Steinmetz—"I didn't know any miners," he said, with pride—but there were elements of the Simandou deal that appeared to warrant an investigation. "I found it a bit strange that they had invested a hundred and sixty million dollars and were going to earn billions," Condé said. "It's a little . . ." He smiled and gave a Gallic shrug.

Beny Steinmetz, who is fifty-six, does not seem to live anywhere in particular. He shuttles, on his private jet, between Tel Aviv (where his family lives, in one of the most expensive houses in Israel), Geneva (where he technically resides, for tax purposes), London (where the main management office of B.S.G.R. is situated), and far-flung locations connected to his diamond and mineral interests, from Macedonia to Sierra Leone. He is technically not an executive of the conglomerate that bears his name, but merely the chief beneficiary of a foundation into which the profits flow. This is a legal fig leaf. Ehud Olmert, the former Prime Minister of Israel and a friend of his, described Steinmetz as "a one-man show." Olmert continued, "I don't quite understand the legal aspects—just know that he can work ceaselessly and will move from one side of the globe to the other if he identifies a promising deal." Steinmetz is very fit and exercises every day, no matter where he is. With blue eyes, tousled sandy hair, a preference for casual dress, and a deep tan, he looks more like a movie agent than like a magnate.

"I grew up in a home where diamonds were the subject," Steinmetz has said. His father, Rubin, was a Polish diamond cutter who learned the business in Antwerp before settling in Palestine, in 1936. A family photograph from 1977 captures Beny as a young man, sitting at a cluttered table with his two older brothers and his father, who looks sternly at the camera while Beny inspects a precious stone. That year, Beny finished his military service and struck out for Antwerp, with instructions to expand the company's international business in polished stones. According to a privately published

history of the family business, "The Steinmetz Diamond Story," Beny branched into Africa, in search of new sources of rough stones. The plan wasn't to establish mines but, rather, to make deals with the people doing the digging.

Approximately half the diamonds in the world originate in sub-Saharan Africa, and many ambitious Westerners have followed the lead of Cecil Rhodes—the founder of De Beers—and sought fortunes on the continent. "Unfortunately, there aren't any diamond mines in Piccadilly," Dag Cramer, who oversees Steinmetz's business interests, told me. "That's not where God put the assets."

Instead, diamonds tend to be found in countries that are plagued by underdevelopment and corruption and, often, by war. This is enough to scare off many investors, but not all; some entrepreneurs are drawn to the heady combination of political uncertainty, physical danger, and potentially astronomical rewards. Ambassador Laskaris, who has done tours in Liberia and Angola, likened the diamond trade in much of Africa to the seedy cantina in "Star Wars." "It attracts all the rejects of the galaxy," he said. "Low barriers to entry. It rewards corruption. It also rewards a little bit of brutality."

Steinmetz plunged into Africa's treacherous political waters. In the nineteen-nineties, he was the largest purchaser of diamonds from Angola; later, he became the biggest private investor in Sierra Leone. Today, Steinmetz is the largest buyer of rough diamonds from De Beers, and one of the major suppliers of Tiffany & Company. And he has diversified his holdings into real estate, minerals, oil and gas, and other fields, with interests in more than twenty countries. A Web site that Steinmetz recently set up describes him as a "visionary" who used a "network of contacts on the African continent" to build "a multi-faced empire."

Paul Collier, however, takes a dim view of businessmen like Steinmetz, who have secured the rights to natural resources that they may not actually have the expertise to develop. "Their technical competence is a social-network map," Collier said. "Who has the power to make the decision? Who can I reach?" They know how to get a contract—that is their skill." (Cramer rejected this characterization, insisting that Steinmetz makes sustainable investments wherever he operates. "B.S.G.R. is not a company that has ever been in the business of obtaining rights and flipping them," he told me.)

Despite his great wealth, Steinmetz has maintained an exceptionally low profile. Last year, after "Hamakor," a news program on Israeli television, devoted an episode to a battle that he was having with tax authorities in Tel Aviv, he threatened legal action and succeeded in blocking the program from being posted on the Internet. "He's a very private guy," Alon Pinkas, a friend of Steinmetz's who once served as Israel's consul-general in New York, told me. "His family is all he cares about—and his business."

Steinmetz's diamond business, however, has occasionally engaged in some creative publicity. The company sponsors Formula 1 events, sometimes furnishing drivers with diamond-encrusted helmets and steering wheels. At a 2004 race in Monaco, a large Steinmetz diamond was affixed to the nose of a Jaguar race car. As the vehicle tore around a hairpin curve, the driver lost control and the Jaguar slammed into a guardrail. The diamond, which was reportedly a hundred and eight carats and worth two hundred thousand dollars, was never recovered.

General Lansana Conté, the dictator who ruled Guinea before Alpha Condé became President, was famously corrupt: he referred to his ministers, not without affection, as "thieves," and once remarked, "If we had to shoot every Guinean who had stolen from Guinea there would be no one left to kill." By 2008, after more than two decades in power, he had become ill, and had largely stopped appearing in public; when he did, he was propped up by bodyguards and orbited by adjutants who often made a show of stooping to whisper in his ear, even when it was obvious, to a close observer, that he was asleep.

During this period, Steinmetz flew to Conakry and met with Conté. At the General's compound, they sat and talked beneath a mango tree. Conté was aware of B.S.G.R. because it had acquired the rights to explore two small parcels of



land abutting the Simandou range—places where others in the mining industry had not thought to look. In 2006, one of Steinmetz's employees called him from the top of a mountain, using a satellite phone, and said, "Beny, you cannot believe. I'm standing on so much iron here, you have no idea." After this success, General Conté began to entertain the idea of reapportioning the Simandou deposit. It was not long after he met Steinmetz that he stripped Rio Tinto of its claim and gave B.S.G.R. a license to explore half the Simandou range. Two weeks after General Conté signed the deal, he died.

Hours later, a military coup installed an erratic young Army captain, Moussa Dadis Camara. The junta was a nightmarish period for Guinea. In September, 2009, during an opposition rally at a stadium in Conakry, government soldiers massacred more than a hundred and fifty demonstrators. The U.S. evacuated most of its staff from the Embassy, and the International Criminal Court described the violence as a crime against humanity. But B.S.G.R. stayed put. On one occasion, Steinmetz flew in with two of his sons to meet Captain Dadis. They invited him to Israel to attend the wedding of Steinmetz's daughter—a celebration with more than a thousand guests. (Dadis sent his regrets.)

To Steinmetz, this cultivation of the junta only proved his company's unshakable commitment to Guinea. "We put money in the ground at a time when people thought we were crazy," he told the Financial Times. B.S.G.R. and the junta eventually came to terms over how the company would export iron ore. It did not have to build a deepwater port or a railroad capable of carrying iron ore to Guinea's coast. Instead, B.S.G.R. could pursue a cheaper option: exporting the ore through Liberia, which already had the necessary infrastructure. For years, the government of Guinea had resisted such a scenario when Rio Tinto had proposed it. As a concession, B.S.G.R. agreed to spend a billion dollars developing a passenger railway for Guinea.

In December, 2009, an aide shot Captain Dadis in the head. He survived, and fled the country; another interim government took over. Once again, Steinmetz weathered the chaos, and in April, 2010, he flew to Rio de Janeiro to finalize the two-and-a-half-billion-dollar deal with Vale. Afterward, he stopped at a shipyard in Chile, to check on the progress of a mega-yacht that he had commissioned to be built there.

When President Condé set out to clean up Guinea's mining industry, he discovered a generous ally in George Soros. "I was aware of the magnitude of the problem in Guinea," Soros told me. "I was eager to help." He enlisted Revenue Watch to provide technical support in revising the mining code. He also suggested that Guinea hire Scott Horton, an attorney at the U.S. law firm D.L.A. Piper; Horton has conducted dozens of corruption investigations around the world.

"There was no way, going up against a guy like Steinmetz, that the Condé government could compete effectively without outside help," Horton told me. Another difficulty was that so many government officials had held prominent roles in prior regimes. "I can't task my gendarmerie to do the investigation," Condé observed to his advisers. "They'll come up with members of their own families."

In the spring of 2011, Horton began to investigate the Simandou deal. For assistance, he turned to a man named Steven Fox, who runs a risk-assessment company, in New York, called Veracity Worldwide. When corporations want to do business in countries that suffer from political instability and corruption, Veracity can help them assess if such an investment would be prudent—and viable without breaking the law.

Fox is in his forties, with the bearing of a man who feels most comfortable in a suit. He speaks softly, enunciating each syllable. At a recent meeting at his office, in midtown Manhattan, he told me that until 2005 he had worked for the State Department, and had spent time as a foreign-service officer in Africa. According to Eamon Javers's "Broker, Trader, Lawyer, Spy," a 2011 book about the private-intelligence industry, Fox actually worked for the C.I.A. As we sat down to talk, I noted a bookshelf that was heavy on le Carré and Furst.

When Guinean government officials began looking into the Simandou contract, Fox told me, they had no evidence of malfeasance. "They only heard the rumors on the street," he said. Fox had met Steinmetz once, in London, and had

found him quiet and unassuming, but his understanding was that Steinmetz enlisted employees to pave the way for him—"pointy-end-of-the-spear forward-reconnaissance people." Fox decided that his first essential task was to identify Steinmetz's man in Guinea.

He soon pinpointed a candidate: Frédéric Cilins, a tanned, gregarious Frenchman, with thinning hair, who lived on the Riviera, near Cannes, but spent a lot of time in Africa. He had served as a scout for B.S.G.R. in Guinea. When I asked Fox how he had learned of Cilins, his response was enigmatic: "We knew a circle of people who knew a circle of people."

Fox said of Cilins, "He's an operator—that's the best way to describe him." His role at B.S.G.R. was to accumulate relationships and identify relevant power structures. In that respect, Fox realized, Cilins was not so different from him: they both excelled at parachuting into foreign countries and figuring out what "makes them tick." (Cilins declined to comment for this article.)

One day in the fall of 2011, Fox flew to Paris and met with Cilins. They had been introduced by a mutual acquaintance; as Cilins understood it, Fox was working on behalf of a client who wanted to know how B.S.G.R. had secured the Simandou deal. Fox told me that, unlike some corporate-espionage outfits (and spies), Veracity does not "pretext"—employ ruses to approach a potential source. Even so, he did not acknowledge that his client was the new government of Guinea.

Fox and Cilins met in a conference room, then went to a restaurant for lunch. Cilins was affable and surprisingly candid. While Fox took notes, Cilins explained that he first visited Guinea in 2005, after a B.S.G.R. executive in Johannesburg had informed him that the company wanted to "shoot for the moon"—a phrase that Cilins took to indicate Simandou. Cilins told Fox that he spent the next six months in Conakry, staying at the Novotel, a seaside property that is popular with mining executives. He became friendly with the staff in the business center, and persuaded them to hand him copies of all incoming and outgoing faxes. In this manner, he learned details about the Conté regime's frustration with Rio Tinto.

Each time that Cilins flew from France to Guinea, he brought gifts—MP3 players, cell phones, perfumes—which he disbursed among his contacts. They came to think of him as "Father Christmas," he told Fox. One minister informed him that the only person who mattered in the country was General Conté—and that the way to Conté was through his four wives. (Plural marriage is tolerated in Guinea, a predominantly Muslim country.)

After further inquiries, Cilins focussed on the fourth and youngest wife, Mamadie Touré—a stout, almond-eyed woman who was still in her twenties. "She was young, and she was considered very beautiful," Fox told me. "She's not a rocket scientist, but she had a certain dynamism. Most important, she had the ear of the President."

Cilins hired Touré's brother to help promote the company's interests in Guinea, then secured an introduction to her. Not long afterward, Cilins and several associates from the company obtained an audience with the President. At this meeting, Cilins told Fox, they gave General Conté a watch that was inlaid with Steinmetz diamonds. At another meeting, they presented the Minister of Mines with a model of a Formula 1 race car that was similarly encrusted with Steinmetz bling. Soon afterward, Touré's brother was named the head of public relations for B.S.G.R.-Guinea.

Fox shrugged when asked why Cilins had confided in him. "There's an element of arrogance," he said. "Or of complete naïveté. Of believing they did what they did and there was no big deal." Cilins seemed proud of his work in Conakry. He told Fox that, in his view, the history of Guinea would henceforth be thought of as dividing into two periods—"before and after B.S.G.R."

To Cilins, giving gifts may have seemed simply like the cost of doing business in places like Guinea. Many countries aggressively prosecute domestic corruption but are much more permissive when it comes to bribes paid abroad. Until fairly recently, French firms that gave bribes in order to secure business in foreign countries could declare them as deductible business expenses.

In recent years, however, international norms have begun changing. The U.S. Justice Department has dramatically increased its enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; the U.K. has passed its own stringent Bribery Act; and the Organization for Economic Coöperation and Development has instituted a convention against bribery, and several dozen countries—including Israel—have signed it. Major companies, like Siemens and K.B.R., have settled corruption investigations by paying hundreds of millions of dollars in fines. (Rio Tinto, too, has contended with corruption; in 2010, four representatives of the company were convicted of accepting bribes in China.) Many multinational corporations have responded to the increased vigilance about graft by establishing robust internal-compliance departments that monitor employee behavior. B.S.G.R. says that it conducts itself ethically wherever it operates, and a company representative pointed out to me that neither Steinmetz nor his organization has ever been implicated in bribery. But B.S.G.R. does not have a compliance department, and it does not have a single employee whose chief responsibility is to monitor company behavior abroad.

Shortly after General Conté died, Mamadie Touré fled Guinea. Fox and his colleagues discovered that she was living in Jacksonville, Florida. The World Bank estimates that forty per cent of the private wealth in Africa is held outside the continent. In a recent civil-forfeiture proceeding against the son of the dictator of Equatorial Guinea, the Justice Department documented some of his possessions: a twelve-acre estate in Malibu, a Gulfstream jet, seven Rolls-Royces, eight Ferraris, and a white glove once worn by Michael Jackson.

Jacksonville isn't Malibu. But, when Fox and his team investigated, they discovered that Touré had purchased a McMansion on a canal there, along with a series of smaller properties in the vicinity.

When you disembark from a plane in Conakry, the corruption hits you almost as quickly as the heat. At the airport, a uniformed officer will stop you, raising no specific objections but making it clear, with his body, that your exit from the situation will be transactional. Out on the rubble-strewn streets, which are perfumed by the garbage that clogs the city's open sewers, the military presence is less conspicuous than in the past—security-sector reform has been a priority for Condé—but at night insouciant young soldiers position themselves at intersections, holding submachine guns; they lean into passing cars and come away with cash. In 1961, Frantz Fanon wrote of post-colonial West Africa, "Concessions are snatched up by foreigners; scandals are numerous, ministers grow rich, their wives doll themselves up, the members of parliament feather their nests and there is not a soul down to the simple policeman or the customs officer who does not join in the great procession of corruption." This description no longer applies to the region as a whole—Ghana, for example, is a prospering democracy—but in Guinea little has changed.

One afternoon, I went to a whitewashed building in Conakry's administrative quarter to meet Nava Touré, a former professor of engineering whom Condé had entrusted with running the technical committee on mines. Touré (no relation to Mamadie Touré, the General's fourth wife) has a round face, a melodious voice, and a decorous, almost ethereal, manner. During the months that I spent reporting this story, Nava Touré was one of the few officials in the government about whom I never heard even a rumor of corruption. He had been charged with establishing a new mining code that would create a more equitable balance between the interests of the mining companies and the people of Guinea. In addition, he had been asked to review all existing mining contracts and recommend whether any of them should be renegotiated or rescinded. But when he turned his focus on Simandou he had no staff of trained inspectors, so he relied on D.L.A. Piper, the law firm, and Steven Fox, the investigator. "It was outsourced," Touré told me.

Last October, he sent an incendiary letter to representatives of the joint venture between Vale and B.S.G.R., identifying "possible irregularities" in the Simandou concession. It called Frédéric Cilins "a secret proxy" for Steinmetz, raised suspicions about Cilins's alliance with Mamadie Touré, and itemized gifts such as the diamond watch and the bejewelled model race car. The letter accused B.S.G.R. of planning all along to flip the rights to Simandou, in order "to extract immediate and substantial profits."



Nava Touré's accusations also implicated a man he knew: Mahmoud Thiam, who had served as the Minister of Mines under the junta that ruled Guinea after General Conté's death. Touré had been one of Thiam's advisers at the time. Thiam came to the job, in early 2009, with stellar credentials. After obtaining an economics degree from Cornell, he had worked as a banker at Merrill Lynch and U.B.S. Thiam was handsome, very polished, and a champion of Beny Steinmetz. In 2010, in an interview on "Closing Bell with Maria Bartiromo," on CNBC, Thiam praised the "very aggressive junior company, B.S.G.R., that came and developed that permit to the point where it made it attractive to a big player like Vale." Simandou, Thiam said, would "catapult the country into the No. 3 iron-ore exporter in the world." He had attended the lavish wedding of Steinmetz's daughter in Israel, as a representative of the junta.

According to Nava Touré's letter, Thiam not only took payoffs from B.S.G.R.; he effectively worked as the company's paymaster, meeting a corporate jet at Conakry airport, unloading suitcases full of cash, and then distributing bribes to the junta's leaders. Steven Fox, the American investigator, had discovered that while Thiam was minister he took to driving around Conakry in a Lamborghini. Before he left office, in 2011, he bought an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, for \$1.5 million, and an estate in Dutchess County, for \$3.75 million. He paid for both properties with cash.

Thiam currently lives in the U.S., running an investment-advisory firm. This spring, I visited him at his elegant office, on Madison Avenue. He denied any wrongdoing. The Manhattan apartment, he explained, was paid for with money that he had made in banking. And he had bought the country estate on behalf of a Mozambican friend who was looking to invest in the U.S. (Thiam refused to name the friend.) The Lamborghini was not a sports car but a four-wheel-drive vehicle. "You can't serve as mining minister without being accused of corruption," he told me. He regards the review of the B.S.G.R. contract as little more than a witch hunt, but added that he still maintains the highest respect for Nava Touré.

During our meeting in the whitewashed building, I asked Touré how it made him feel to learn of such allegations about former colleagues. He paused. "The feeling of shame," he said at last. "Because, finally, what they have got personally—let's say ten million U.S. dollars, twelve million U.S. dollars—what does that amount to? Compared with the lives of the whole country?" The lights in the room suddenly shut off, and the air-conditioner powered down. He didn't seem to notice. "I don't think that it is tolerable or acceptable from the investors," he continued. "But I'm more shocked by the attitude and the behavior of the national decision-makers."

When B.S.G.R. received Touré's letter, it responded aggressively, dismissing the investigation as an effort by President Condé to expropriate its asset. The company insisted that it had never given a watch to General Conté; though the story about the miniature Formula 1 car was true, the model had a value of only a thousand dollars, and B.S.G.R. routinely gave such "gifts to companies around the world." Frédéric Cilins had worked for the company, but "B.S.G.R. never told Mr. Cilins that it 'asked for the moon.'" Cilins may have distributed gifts among his contacts in Conakry, but the company denied any knowledge of them. Oddly, B.S.G.R.'s written response insisted, more than once, that Mamadie Touré had not actually been the wife of General Conté.

B.S.G.R. faulted the Condé administration for failing to name the sources of the allegations, and noted that any payments made to public officials "would be easily identified by bank transfers, payment orders, copies of checks, etc." Again and again, B.S.G.R. returned to "the absence of the smallest amount of supporting proof."

But how do you prove corruption? By its nature, corruption is covert; payoffs are designed to be difficult to detect. The international financial system has evolved to accommodate a wide array of illicit activities, and shell companies and banking havens make it easy to camouflage transfers, payment orders, and copies of checks. Paul Collier argues that there are often three parties to a corrupt deal: the briber, the bribed, and the lawyers and financial facilitators who enable the secret transaction. The result, he says, is "a web of corporate opacity" that is spun largely by wealthy professionals in financial capitals like London and New York. A recent study found that the easiest country in which to establish an untraceable shell company is not a tropical banking haven but the United States.

In the spring of 2012, one of President Condé's ministers took a trip to Paris. At the Hilton Arc de Triomphe, he was approached by a Gabonese businessman. According to an affidavit by the minister, the Gabonese man said that he had been in contact with Mamadie Touré, and that she had provided him with documents that would be interesting to President Condé. "Madame Touré was angry with Mr. Beny Steinmetz," the Gabonese man said. She believed that "she had been taken advantage of."

The minister was astonished by the documents. They appeared to be a series of legal contracts, complete with signatures and official seals, between officers of B.S.G.R. and Mamadie Touré. The documents contained the signature of Asher Avidan, the head of the company's Guinea operations. Avidan was a former member of Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet. The contracts had been signed in Conakry in February, 2008—five months before General Conté took the Simandou concession away from Rio Tinto, and ten months before the northern half of that concession was given to Beny Steinmetz. The agreements stipulated that Touré would be granted a five-per-cent stake in the northern "blocks" of Simandou, in addition to "two (2) million" dollars, which would be paid through a shell company. In exchange, she committed "to do all that is necessary" to help B.S.G.R. "obtain from the authorities the signature for the obtaining of said blocks."

An American lawyer involved in the case told me, "I've been involved in corporate corruption work for thirty years, and I've never seen anything like this. A contract for bribery that's actually signed by a senior executive? Corporate seals?" The Gabonese man intimated that the documents were potentially worth millions of dollars. He was not going to part with such a valuable commodity for free. He was associated with an investment company, Palladino, which had loaned the Condé government twenty-five million dollars to set up a mining project. Now, in return for the documents, the Gabonese man wanted his own stake in Simandou. (Palladino acknowledges that the Paris meeting took place, but denies that the Gabonese businessman made any such demands.)

President Condé refused to make a quid-pro-quo deal for the documents, but at least the Guinean government knew of their existence. If they were genuine, they could be that rare thing: proof of corruption.

When I asked Steven Fox, the investigator, why any company would sign such a contract, he suggested that Touré may have insisted upon it. "There's a whole Francophone-African culture of these very legalistic documents that formalize certain arrangements," he explained. And Touré would have been concerned about securing her position. "Her sole value was that she was the wife of the President," he said. When the contract was signed, the General's health was in rapid decline, and "she knew that the minute he closed his eyes she would have absolutely nothing." At first glance, it seemed odd that she had entrusted copies of the documents to the Gabonese man. But several people who have spoken to Touré suggested to me that she had grown to fear Steinmetz. The contracts—which, if exposed, could potentially imperil his position in Guinea—amounted to a form of insurance policy.

By this time, President Condé had come to fear for his safety as well. In 2011, he had narrowly survived an assassination attempt, in which soldiers bombarded his residence in Conakry with machine-gun fire and rockets. He pressed on with his efforts to reform Guinea, but his situation grew more precarious. His Treasury chief, whom Condé had charged with investigating embezzlement by government officials, was driving home from work one night when her car was cut off by another vehicle; she was shot and killed. Bernard Kouchner said of Condé, "He is really isolated." After the attack on his residence, Condé moved into the Presidential palace, a cavernous fortress, constructed by Chinese contractors, which one diplomat referred to as "the Dim Sum Palace." Condé is married, but at night he often ate alone, occasionally watching a soccer game to distract him from his worries. He did not discuss the matter with me, but several people who have spoken with Condé about it told me that he believes that Steinmetz is eavesdropping on his communications. (B.S.G.R. denies this.)

Condé was also contending with an unstable capital. The violence that erupted after he delayed parliamentary elections did not abate. Rival factions fought one another in the street, and protesters threw rocks at police. In several instances,

Condé's security forces fired on protesters. More than two dozen people died. To some, it looked as if Condé might replicate the sad pattern of many post-colonial African leaders who have started as reformers and then drifted into tyranny. In September, 2011, Amnesty International declared that "President Alpha Condé is resorting to exactly the same brutal methods as his predecessors."

Ehud Olmert told me that Steinmetz "is the last guy you want as an enemy." B.S.G.R.—sensing, perhaps, that Condé was politically vulnerable—went on the attack, labelling his government a "discredited regime" that was trying to "illegally seize" the Simandou deposit. The company also pointed out that Rio Tinto had reacquired the rights to the southern half of Simandou, eventually paying the Condé government seven hundred million dollars to secure the deal.

But was this corruption at work? Rio Tinto's payment was, in part, a reflection of a new mining code, which levied higher taxes on international companies exporting Guinean resources. The company also granted the government up to a thirty-five-per-cent stake in the mine. In this respect, the Condé administration was trying to bring mining into line with the more equitable deals made by the oil-and-gas industry. (Dag Cramer, the executive who oversees Steinmetz's business interests, told me, "There's a reason Arab families own half of London today. The bulk of the profits from oil are being extracted by the host countries. This hasn't happened yet in mining.") The Rio Tinto deal was also transparent: the contract was published, in its entirety, on the Internet. "This is something that no other Guinean government would have done, at any point in the country's history," Patrick Heller, who works at Revenue Watch, told me. "It's a huge sign of progress." Moreover, the funds went not into numbered bank accounts but directly into the Guinean treasury.

Nevertheless, several B.S.G.R. employees suggested to me that the seven hundred million dollars amounted to a colossal bribe. They further speculated that Condé had "stolen" the election in 2010, by collaborating with wealthy South African backers to rig the results. In conversations with me, friends of Steinmetz's likened Condé to Robert Mugabe and to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. (Both the Carter Center and the European Union, which monitored the election, found that, despite some procedural irregularities, Condé's victory was "credible" and "fair.")

In September, 2011, Condé invited Steinmetz to Conakry, to clear the air. Steinmetz arrived at the palace, and they sat in Condé's office, speaking in French. (Steinmetz is fluent.) "Why are you against us?" Steinmetz asked. "What have we done wrong?"

"I have no personal problem with you," Condé replied. "But I have to defend the interests of Guinea."

Steinmetz was not placated. Cramer told me that the company had to counter the allegations as forcefully as possible, because, for Steinmetz, "the perception of him being an honest person" was crucial. "In the diamond business, a handshake is more important than a contract," Cramer explained.

B.S.G.R. expanded its campaign against Condé, and turned to a company called F.T.I., which is based in Palm Beach but has operations throughout the world. F.T.I. practices an aggressive form of public relations, seeking not only to suppress negative media coverage about a client but also to plant unfavorable stories about the client's adversaries. An F.T.I. spokesman blasted the Guinean government's review process, calling it a "crude smear campaign." The firm encouraged journalists to run negative stories about Condé; the President soon began to receive bad press about the delay in setting parliamentary elections and about several ostensibly dubious transactions made by people close to him, including his son, Alpha Mohamed Condé. It is not hard to imagine that at least some of Condé's associates have made side deals. "I practice the watch theory of politics," a Western diplomat in Conakry told me. "When a minister is wearing a watch that costs more than my car, I start to worry." During my interviews with officials in Conakry, I spotted more than one conspicuously expensive watch; in the Guinean fashion, the watches hung loose on the wrist, like bracelets.

Inside F.T.I., the decision to work on behalf of Steinmetz caused discord. In 2012, the company hired a new executive to oversee some of its accounts in Africa, and when he discovered that the firm represented Steinmetz and Dan Gertler

—another Israeli diamond mogul, who has been involved in controversial deals in the Democratic Republic of Congo —the executive protested, then resigned. Mark Malloch-Brown, the former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, is now F.T.I.'s chairman for the Middle East and Europe. He grew concerned that the company's reputation might be damaged by its association with Steinmetz, and earlier this year he terminated the relationship. The leadership at B.S.G.R. was incensed.

As the company's troubles accumulated, Steinmetz and his colleagues began to direct their feelings of grievance at George Soros, who had financed Condé's initial investigation and provided seed money to D.L.A. Piper. Soros also bankrolled Revenue Watch, the organization that had been assisting Nava Touré in revising Guinea's mining code, and supported Global Witness, an anti-corruption watchdog group that had been looking into Steinmetz's activities in Guinea. B.S.G.R. executives became convinced that Malloch-Brown had terminated the F.T.I. contract at the behest of an old friend of his: Soros. Cramer showed me an internal document, titled "The Spider," which depicted Soros and Condé at the center of a web of influence, and which identified Soros as "a hater of Israel." The firm sent Soros an angry letter, saying, "We can no longer remain silent letting you ceaselessly maul our company and maliciously attempt wrecking the investment."

Earlier this year, lawyers for Steinmetz sent a letter to Malloch-Brown, demanding that he acknowledge his "personal vendetta" against Steinmetz, sign a formal apology that they had scripted, and "clear" B.S.G.R. of any wrongdoing in Africa. When Malloch-Brown refused, B.S.G.R. sued him, along with F.T.I. The lawsuit claimed that Soros nurtured a "personal obsession" with Steinmetz; it also alleged that Soros had perpetuated a shocking rumor—that Steinmetz tried to have President Condé killed, by backing the mortar attack on his residence in 2011. (B.S.G.R. maintains that this rumor is entirely unfounded; the lawsuit was recently settled out of court, with no admission of wrongdoing by Malloch-Brown or F.T.I.)

When I asked Soros about Steinmetz, he insisted that he holds no grudge against him. A major philanthropist, Soros has long been committed to promoting transparency and curtailing corruption, and he funds numerous organizations in these fields. It is true that some of these groups have converged, lately, on the activities of Steinmetz. This may mean that Soros is obsessed with Steinmetz; or it may mean that Steinmetz is corrupt.

Soros told me that he had never met Steinmetz. When I asked Cramer about this, he said, "That's a lie." In 2005, the two men had attended a dinner at Davos, and spoke to each other. Presented with this account, Soros said that he has gone to many dinners at Davos over the years. If he did meet Steinmetz, he had no memory of it.

One day in April, Frédéric Cilins—the Frenchman who allegedly orchestrated the bribes in Guinea—flew to Jacksonville for an urgent rendezvous. Mamadie Touré met him at the airport. They sat in a bar-and-grill in the departures area, and she ordered a chicken-salad sandwich. Cilins was not as composed as he usually is; he suffers from high blood pressure, and as they spoke, in hushed tones, he was extremely anxious. He had come to Florida on a mission. He told Mamadie Touré that she must destroy the documents—and that he was willing to pay her to do it.

She informed him that it might already be too late: she had recently been approached by the F.B.I. "They're going to give me a subpoena," she said. A grand jury had been convened, and the authorities would expect her to testify and turn over "all the documents."

"Everything must be destroyed!" Cilins said. It was "very, very urgent."

Cilins did not realize that he had fallen into a trap. Touré was wearing a wire. She had indeed been approached by the authorities and, aware of her own legal predicament, had agreed to coöperate with the F.B.I. As she subsequently explained in an interview with Guinean authorities, Cilins and his colleagues had "one single concern," which was "to get these documents back at any price."

As federal agents observed from around the restaurant and the wire recorded every word, she asked Cilins what she should do if she was summoned before the grand jury. "Of course, you have to lie!" he said, according to a court filing that quotes the exchange. Cilins then suggested that she should deny that she had ever been married to General Conté.

Touré and Cilins had spoken on the phone before meeting in Jacksonville, and at one point she had asked him if the plan to buy her silence had been authorized by an individual who is identified in court documents only as "CC-1," for "co-conspirator." Two sources close to the investigation told me that CC-1 is Beny Steinmetz.

"Of course," Cilins had replied. That call, too, was recorded by the F.B.I.

At the airport, Cilins said that he had seen CC-1—Steinmetz—the previous week. "I went specially to see him," he explained. He lowered his voice to a whisper and said he had assured Steinmetz that Touré would "never betray" him, and would "never give away any documents whatsoever."

Steinmetz's response, according to Cilins, was "That's good. . . . But I want you to destroy these documents."

Touré told Cilins that the documents were in a vault, and assured him that she would destroy them. But he wasn't satisfied, explaining that he had been instructed to watch the papers burn.

If she agreed to this plan, Cilins told her, she would be paid a million dollars. He had brought along an attestation—a legal document, in French—for her to sign. (Cilins's comfort with formal legal agreements appears to have extended even into the realm of the coverup.) "I have never signed a single contract with B.S.G.R.," the attestation read. "I have never received any money from B.S.G.R." The arrangement included a possible bonus, Cilins said. If she signed the attestation, destroyed the documents, and lied to the grand jury, and if B.S.G.R. succeeded in holding on to its asset at Simandou—"if they're still part of the project"—she would receive five million dollars.

Before Cilins could leave Jacksonville, he was arrested. This put B.S.G.R. in an awkward position. The transcript of the airport conversation looked very much like confirmation of bribery. Mamadie Touré's documents were now in the possession of the Department of Justice. The government of Guinea had also obtained a videotape, shot during the opening of B.S.G.R.'s office in Conakry, in 2006, that seemed to further illustrate Touré's close relationship with the company. It shows Cilins sitting next to Asher Avidan, who is addressing a crowd of Guineans. Touré then makes an entrance, resplendent in a white headdress and flowing robes, and flanked by members of the Presidential guard—implicitly conferring, by virtue of her presence, the approval of her dying husband.

When news of the arrest in Jacksonville broke, Vale released a statement saying that it was "deeply concerned about these allegations," and committed to working with the relevant authorities. By this time, it seems safe to assume, the Brazilian company may have developed some buyer's remorse over its iron-ore project in Guinea. When I visited the Conakry office of V.B.G.—the joint venture of Vale and the Beny Steinmetz Group—it was operating with a skeleton staff, and the project was clearly on hold, though the executives there would say nothing for the record.

"The question for Vale is: What were you thinking?" a diplomat in Conakry told me. "Did you really think you would be able to start a fifty-year project exporting iron ore in the remotest part of Guinea on the basis of a clearly dubious deal?" Having paid only half a billion dollars to B.S.G.R. so far, Vale has refused, for the moment, to make any further payments on the two billion dollars it still owes.

In mid-June, I flew to Nice, on the French Riviera, and proceeded in a taxi to Cap d'Antibes, a resort town favored by billionaires. I had spent several months trying to meet with Steinmetz, without success. I had visited the B.S.G.R. offices in London, and been told when I arrived that Steinmetz would meet me in Paris. By the time I reached Paris, he had left on his private plane for Israel. I volunteered to fly to Israel, but was told that he wouldn't necessarily meet with me when



I got there. After weeks of negotiation, I finally managed to speak to him by telephone, and after a brief conversation—in which he announced, flatly, "I don't give interviews"—he agreed to see me.

We met at a hotel that was perched above the Mediterranean. Steinmetz was staying on one of his yachts—an Italian model. A sleek white multistory vessel, it floated regally in the distance. As I entered the lobby, I brushed past a slim, deeply tanned man wearing a blue linen shirt that was unbuttoned halfway to his navel. It was Steinmetz.

"Thank you for making the trip," he said when I introduced myself. He seized my hand with the formidable grip of someone who puts a lot of stock in a handshake. We left the hotel and made our way up a steep hill, toward a suite of offices. Steinmetz moved almost at a trot; I had to scramble to keep up.

"I'm totally open—totally transparent," Steinmetz told me when we sat down. "I never lie, as a principle." He resents the idea that he is secretive, and believes that he simply protects his right to privacy. "I don't consider myself a public person," he said.

We talked for nearly three hours, until Steinmetz grew hoarse. He said that he felt blindsided by the controversy over Simandou. People who think that it is inherently outlandish to make billions of dollars on an investment of a hundred and sixty million simply don't understand that the natural-resources business is a game of chance. "It's roulette," Steinmetz said; if you work hard, and take risks, you sometimes "get lucky." As a small company that was comfortable with risk, B.S.G.R. made investments that the major mining companies wouldn't. His company lost money in Tanzania. It lost money in Zambia. But in Guinea it won.

Steinmetz argued that the deal with Vale was not an effort by B.S.G.R. to sell off its asset but, rather, a partnership of the sort that is often necessary with ambitious, resource-intensive mining projects. "How did we flip?" he asked. "Why is bringing a partner in a flip?"

In our telephone call, Steinmetz had described the saga of Simandou as "a very African story," and when we met I asked him how his company has dealt with the pervasiveness of corruption in Africa. "Very strict instructions and guidelines to people on the ground," he said, insisting that, even in jurisdictions that are notorious for graft, the company does not pay bribes. "We manage our business like the most transparent public company," he said.

To hear Steinmetz tell it, the former leaders of Guinea were undeserving of the widespread censure they had received. General Conté was "more honest" than President Condé. Captain Dadis, the junta leader who presided over the stadium massacre, was "an honest guy" who simply "wanted the best for his country."

President Condé was the real villain in this story, Steinmetz said. His loathing for Condé was so palpable that, whenever he mentioned him, the tendons in his neck stood out.

Steinmetz claimed that the accusations against him were the product of a concerted smear campaign, initiated by Condé and financed by George Soros. "According to the Jewish religion, if you say somebody is guilty of something without proof, this is a very bad thing to do," Steinmetz said. And the documents that were discussed in Jacksonville did not prove anything, he said—they were forgeries.

After failing to meet Steinmetz in Paris, I had met Asher Avidan, the head of B.S.G.R.'s Guinea operations, for a drink. When I presented him with a photograph of a signature that appeared on one of the contracts, he had acknowledged that it was identical to his own but dismissed it as "a simple Photoshop." In Cap d'Antibes, Steinmetz elaborated on this theme, claiming that Mamadie Touré's documents were fake, and that long before the F.B.I. investigation began she had tried to blackmail B.S.G.R., using the fraudulent contracts as leverage. "We never paid her," Steinmetz insisted. "We never promised her anything."

He pulled out color photocopies of the documents, and pointed at sequential notations that had supposedly been made on each contract by the notary public in Conakry. These notations, he said, ran in descending rather than ascending order—proof that they were inauthentic. I told him that I could imagine a scenario in which the documents were forgeries, and conceded that Touré was not exactly an unimpeachable witness. But the transcript of the Jacksonville conversation did not look good for Steinmetz, and I told him that there was another factor that inclined me to consider the documents real: if they were fake, why would Frédéric Cilins fly across the Atlantic and offer Touré five million dollars to destroy them? I posed the question to Steinmetz multiple times, in multiple ways, but he replied only that he would not "speculate" about Cilins while his case was before the courts.

I pressed the matter. "Cilins told Mamadie Touré, 'I've spoken to Beny. He told me to do this.' Did you?"

"I didn't ask him to destroy these fake documents or any other documents," Steinmetz said.

Was Cilins lying about Steinmetz's directive, then? Or was he somehow mistaken?

Steinmetz, growing impatient, reiterated that he did not want to speculate about Cilins. He did want to talk, however, about Condé's responsibility for the deaths of protesters in Guinea. "The guy has blood on his hands," Steinmetz said.

"Captain Dadis had blood on his hands, too," I observed. "And you invited him to your daughter's wedding."

Steinmetz stared at me for a second, then said, "I'm not going to argue or go into depth about the politics of Guinea."

Even as we were meeting in France, the leaders of the Group of Eight had assembled in Northern Ireland. A major goal was to assess the rules governing how executives from wealthy nations conduct themselves when they venture into the developing world. Before the summit, Prime Minister David Cameron, of the U.K., published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal: "We must lift the veil of secrecy that too often lets corrupt corporations and officials in some countries run rings around the law. The G-8 must move toward a global common standard for resource-extracting companies to report all payments to governments, and in turn for governments to report those revenues."

In developing this ambitious agenda, Cameron had been closely advised by Paul Collier. "This is Africa's big opportunity," Collier told me. "But it's a nonrenewable opportunity." If companies are allowed to acquire natural resources without full transparency, the result will be plunder—or, as Collier puts it, "a tragedy of awesome proportions." At Cameron's invitation, President Condé travelled to London before the meeting. "If we are to fight against exploitation and bring about transparency, we are going to need the help of the G-8," Condé said, in a speech at Chatham House, the foreign-policy think tank. "Mining companies are mostly in the West."

Steinmetz was appalled by the lionization of Guinea's leader. The current government, he said, is a "sophisticated" version of a corrupt regime, because "they are pretending to be honest." He repeated a claim that some of his colleagues had made—that Condé had stolen the 2010 election by promising to strip B.S.G.R. of its Simandou license and transfer the rights to his backers. "He sold our assets to South African interests who provided him with financial support to manipulate the election," he said. Even before Condé entered office, he had decided "that he was going to take Simandou from us." In Steinmetz's telling, Condé is like the title character in "Nostromo"—the "perfectly incorruptible" man who, through his own vanity and the spell of the mine, finally succumbs to corruption.

"We are the victims," Steinmetz said. "We have done only good things for Guinea, and what we're getting is spit in the face." With that, he wished me well. Dusk was falling, and I descended the hill while Steinmetz headed back to his yacht for dinner.

Shortly after Frédéric Cilins was arrested in Florida, I went to Conakry and visited President Condé at the Dim Sum Palace. He wore a white suit with short sleeves—a common style in Guinea—and looked tired. The violent opposition rallies showed no sign of stopping, and it was not entirely clear that Condé would hold on to power long enough to fulfill his reform agenda. Having failed to hold parliamentary elections, he was also at risk of losing his credibility as a genuinely democratic leader. Alexis Arieff, a Guinea expert at the Congressional Research Service, told me, "He came in with a real sense of having fought for the Presidency, and deserving a free hand in how he runs the country—'This is mine, I went to prison for this, I suffered for this.' " A European Union report recently blamed "Condé's governing style" for the escalating tension in the country. Condé, for his part, felt that Steinmetz had played a role in the unrest; at Chatham House, he intimated that B.S.G.R. is funding the opposition movement. (Steinmetz told me that this was false.)

When I asked Condé if he felt vindicated when the U.S. Justice Department began investigating the Simandou deal, he refused to take the bait. It is ultimately up to him to decide—on the basis of counsel from the mining ministry—whether or not to strip B.S.G.R. and Vale of the Simandou license, and he did not want to say anything that might prejudice this process. Instead, he smiled and said, "The actions of the United States can help me advance in the struggle against corruption in Guinea."

Cilins's bail was set at fifteen million dollars, because of the danger that he might flee the U.S. In May, he pleaded not guilty to obstruction-of-justice charges, and it's possible that he will decide to cooperate with authorities; in his court filings, he has not denied offering Mamadie Touré money to destroy the documents, or doing so at the behest of Steinmetz. B.S.G.R. continues to maintain that it never paid any money to Touré or signed any contracts with her. But Asher Avidan said something interesting in our conversation at the Paris bar. He repeated B.S.G.R.'s claim that Touré had not been married to General Conté when he signed over the rights to Simandou. "She was not his wife," Avidan said. "Not even sleeping with him." Then he added, "She is a lobbyist. Like a thousand others."

It suddenly occurred to me why B.S.G.R. officials might be so committed to the notion that Touré had not been married to the old General. If she was not related to him, then she was merely another local influence peddler—a lobbyist. And it might be argued that, as a legal matter, paying a lobbyist is different from paying a bribe. If B.S.G.R. was ever forced to admit that it had paid Mamadie Touré, here, in embryo, was a defense.

Although the U.S. Justice Department will not comment on the case, Cilins is likely not the ultimate target of its investigation. When the grand jury in Manhattan began issuing subpoenas, earlier this year, it requested information not just on "the Simandou concession" but on Steinmetz himself. The F.B.I. recently dispatched two teams of investigators to Conakry. According to the Wall Street Journal, the Serious Fraud Office, in London, has also opened an investigation into B.S.G.R.'s activities. Because both Israel and France have been reluctant to extradite their citizens in the past, Steinmetz might never see trial in the U.S., even in the event that he was indicted. Still, Scott Horton told me, "Steinmetz's future travel options may be limited."

When we spoke in Cap d'Antibes, Steinmetz did not seem worried. "We have zero to hide," he said.

Steven Fox, the investigator, told me that Steinmetz and his colleagues were "very improvisational," adding, "They can think creatively and move fast in an uncertain situation. That's what accounted for their success, in a lot of ways. But it will probably also account for their downfall."

For the moment, the iron ore remains locked inside the Simandou Mountains, and the site is still cut off from the rest of Guinea. "Everyone wants Simandou," Condé told me as we sat in the palace. "It became the obsession, literally, of everybody."

He continued to talk, in his professorial way, but a note of bewilderment crept into his voice. "Looking at the iron ore, the grade is world-class. The quality is world-class. Yet, in so many years, we haven't been able to benefit from any of